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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

AUGUST 18th, 1977, ISSUE no. 31

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 31 — AUGUST 18th, 1977

FEATURES—

SurfSide:
TAKE A BREATH ..... Dr. W. A. Muller 8
FISHERMAN'S I.Q. TEST ..... Fred Guardineer 9
Sinker Bouncing:
WRECK FISHING ..... Matt Ahern 10
MAKO MOON ..... Bob Orrok 13
THE HUMPBACKS OF MONTAUK ..... Ron Onorato 14
WESTERN L. I. SOUND BLUES ..... Ted Keatley 16
GAFF: INDISPENSABLE HOOKS ..... Dick Mermon 18

DEPARTMENTS—

Editor's Head 4
Chum Lines 5
Boating 5
Pass It On 6
Contests & Tournaments 7
Tide Tables 12
Fishing Reports 20
Free Lure Offer 28
Classified Ads 44
Litter Box Contest 46

About the Cover—

Nick Karas, outdoor columnist for Newsday, poses with a bass taken on a recent trip with Scott Simons and Doc Muller aboard Capt. John DeMaio's boat "Vivienne." Photo by Dr. William A. Muller.

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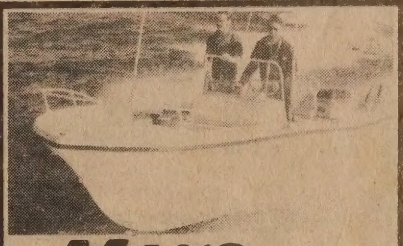

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From the Editor's Head

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CHUM LINES

D.E.C. THANKS DOC MULLER ON SHELLFISH

As you are aware, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is currently in the process of formulating official Rules and Regulations to compliment the Environmental Conservation Law, Section 13-0301, with regard to the leasing of state-owned underwater lands for shellfish cultivation and aquacultural purposes.

In order to insure that the interests of both the recreational and commercial users of the State's marine resources were properly represented in this procedure, the Department formed a leasing Advisory Committee in 1976.

Dr. William Muller, Associate Editor of your publication and Chairman of the Life Sciences Department at the New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, has been a valued and active member of this Committee, and has recently submitted a letter to this Department in which he suggested some specific guidelines to be incorporated in these regulations. The general point of Dr. Muller's letter, and the specific intent of his comments, were that it is possible to provide for the responsible management and development of our underutilized marine resources through aquacultural activities, while at the same time protecting the rights of the general public currently using these resources for their own benefit and enjoyment.

Dr. Muller's ideas, if not already provided for in the Conservation Law, are being incorporated into the regulations which DEC personnel are presently drafting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as well as Dr. Muller, for the support you have both given to our efforts to develop a comprehensive shellfish cultivation program designed to benefit all the people of New York State. **Stephen A. Hendrickson, Shellfish Management, NYSDEC-Region I8SUNY.**

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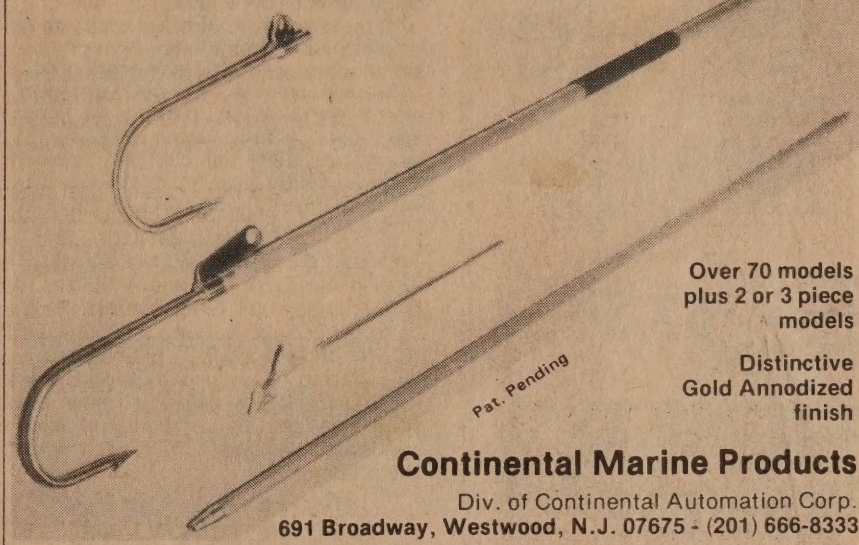

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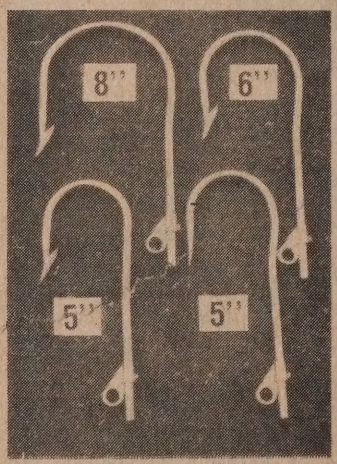

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This stamp collection is part of a complete kit designed for fish enthusiasts who are not stamp collectors now.

The kit consists of 100 different colorful fish stamps from many countries, plus album pages specifically designed for these fish stamps, booklets on stamp collecting and stamp identification, stamp mounts, and more. The complete kit is available for $9.95 plus 75 cents postage from Stamp Treasures, 8 Balfour Street, Valley Stream, New York 11580.

Editor's Note:

A beautiful 4-color process stamp with a fish on it was enclosed with the above press release. For all you striped bass and bluefish enthusiasts out there, the picture was of neither, but rather of a game fish—a porgy!

MONSTER MAN TO BE AT SOUTHAMPTON COLLEGE

Captain Frank Mundus of Montauk—"shark man"—will give a talk about his adventures and experiences with sharks on Friday, August 19, at 8:30 PM in the Fine Arts Theater at Southampton College. He will also show underwater films taken by the famous Peter Gimbel.

Captain Mundus, whose charter boat calendar is booked some two years in advance, is the man from whom the character "Quint" in Peter Benchley's novel "Jaws" is drawn. He is also the author of his own book about sharks, entitled "Monster Man" and is a very colorful lecturer.

General admission to Captain Mundus' talk is $3, or $1.50 for children; there is no charge for students with a College summer ID card.

D.E.C. TO ENLARGE F.I. ARTIFICIAL REEF

Saltwater anglers will have increased opportunities to catch fish on a newly-enlarged artificial fishing reef off Fire Island, according to Donald J. Middleton, Long Island Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

A wooden barge, 110 feet long and 33 feet wide, donated to DEC by Union Drydock, Inc., was recently sunk on the site of the existing Fire Island Ocean reef, Mr. Middleton said. Resting on the bottom at a depth of 67 feet, the barge soon will be cloaked with a thick growth of barnacles and other organisms to attract and provide food and shelter for a variety of fishes. "The Fire Island reef usually is a good spot for doormat fluke

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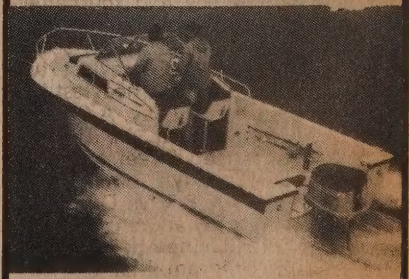

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during August and September," Mr. Middleton added. "The barge will increase the chances for anglers to catch some of those fluke."

The reef addition is the result of a cooperative effort between DEC; Mr. Joe Leschenski, Assistant Superintendent of Jones Beach State Park; Aquatic Technical, Inc., of Point Lookout; and Capt. Neil Delanoy, skipper of the Captree charter boat, **Lady Ann.**

Originally, the barge was to have been disposed of in an authorized deep-water dump area, but when the company heard of DEC's artificial reef program, they towed the barge to Fire Island. Mr. Leschinski cleared a roadway in the State Park for a truck to deliver concrete to ballast the barge which was then towed to the reef site by a tug from Aquatic Technical. The precise location on the site was determined with the help of navigation instruments aboard **Lady Ann.** The entire operation was supervised by Chester S. Zawacki, DEC biologist and reef expert.

Contests & Tournaments

SHEEPSHEAD BAY TUNA CLUB TUNA TOURNAMENT

The Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club is proud to announce their 17th Annual Tuna Tournament to be held September 3, 4, and 5th 1977 (Labor Day Weekend.) The entire New York Bight is included (New York, New Jersey, Long Island.) Weigh-in stations will be Charvin Fishing Station, Jones Inlet; Hennings Fishing Station, Debs Inlet; Kesgal Snug Harbor, Highlands; Kings Grant Marina, Manasquan Inlet; Mansion Marina, Staten Island; Stella Maris Fishing Station, Rockaway Inlet.

A marine biologist will be at each weigh-in station to act as tournament weighmaster and to collect internal organs of tuna for the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Research Program. The angler will keep all of the tuna caught except certain internal organs needed for research program.

The entry fee will be $15 per angler. Rules and regulations and tournament patches will be mailed upon receipt of entry fee. There will be a first, second and third prize for the heaviest tuna caught, and a prize for the heaviest tuna caught each tournament day. A Captains meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Yacht Club at Knapp Street and Voorhies Avenue, Brooklyn on Monday, August 29th, 1977 at 8 P.M. Don't wait, mail your entry today and enjoy a great tournament and help the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Research Program. Mail entries to S.B.T.C., 1317 Oriental Blvd., Brooklyn, New York 11235. Don't mail cash. Make checks payable to the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club Tournament.

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Surf Side with Doc Muller

Take A Breath

August! This month is usually hot and sticky. It's often hard to get up enough energy to mow the lawn, let alone drag your body across the sands in search of bass, blues, and weaks. Sure, maybe you can find a few schoolies, take a blue on bunker, or even scratch away at a few weaks on artificials; but there isn't likely to be any "hot" fishing this month.

Thinking about the fall? Good! But what you are doing about it? You can do something even if you can't put the weather wheels of Mother Nature's machine in gear to get the fish moving and hungry. Some of us are pretty conscientious about putting our gear in shape for the start of a new season, but few of us take the time to prepare for our second season.

Second season? Yeah—the fall! Isn't it really a second go around? Why not take a breath and get things in order. Much work is needed if you're going to be ready when the fish hit the beach.

Begin with a routine check list. Are the waders still in good shape? How about your hooks? The list below will help you to locate the weak links in your chain of attack.

1. Waders: Do they leak? Are the straps rotting? Are they being stored properly?

2. Plug Bag(s). Are the straps still strong? Are the compartments clean?

3. Surf Belt: Check out the gaff holder, stringer, and all hardware attachments.

4. Foul Weather Top: Does the top leak? Are drawstrings free and strong? Is the zipper lubricated?

5. Plugs: Are the hooks sharp? Are they rusted? Do any plugs need a paint job? Check for bent lips and cracked paint or plastic.

6. Bottom Rigs: Are they all fouled together in a lump, either in the bottom of your closet or buggy? Are the hooks sharp? Are the wire leaders still strong? Do you have enough fish-finder rigs?

7. Rods: Are any guides broken? Do any guides need replacement? Are center ferrules lubricated? Are they frozen? What is the condition of the tiptops on your rods?

8. Reels: Did you clean your reels after that last fishing trip? How's the bail spring?

9. Line: When is the last time you changed your line? Is it frayed? Is there enough line on the spool?

10. Miscellaneous: Is there any tackle that you would like to buy to fill in some holes in your arsenal?

Waders: Leaking waders can be repaired in one of several ways, depending upon the type of material that your waders are made of. Rubber waders can be repaired using bicycle tire patch kits. One word of advice: follow the directions carefully. Nylon waders can be fixed using a stick of plastic that can be melted and pressed onto the hole. The plastic repair sticks are available in most tackle stores for a couple of bucks.

Plug bag: Most of the problems with surf bags can be repaired with a little assistance from your local shoe repair man. The cost is very small. If the material is rotting, a new bag or new straps may be in order. A new bag of decent quality will cost you about $20 today.

Surf Belt: New belts with brass grommets can be purchased for $2 or $3 from marine and Army/Navy surplus outlets. Most worn belts are not worth repairing. Hardware attachments can be fixed, however. Brass should be used to secure gaffs, stringers, etc.

Foul Weather Tops: Leaking tops can be repaired the same way as your waders. Ripe tops should be thrown out. Don't push it! If the thing starts to crumble on a rainy night, you'll pay the price. Incidentally, because of safety requirements, tops now come only in bright colors; however, I prefer the dark colors, such as olive drab and dark blue. If anybody knows of quality tops in these colors, please drop me a line.

Plugs: A file will sharpen most hooks, but deeply rusted hooks should be replaced. Remove the hooks and spray on some new paint, and a cracked plastic plug shouldn't be discarded. You can turn this one into a sinker. Simply add some lead shot and seal with epoxy glue. For that matter, you can seal the plug without the shot and return it to its A-1 floating form.

Bottom rigs: Very little fancy advice to offer here! Just get to work and clean it up!

Rods: If you have a two-piece rod that has frozen together, spray the area with "Liquid Wrench" or silicone spray everyday until things loosen up. Store the rod in a vertical position so that the spray has a chance to work its way between the surfaces. If you're handy, replace guides yourself. If not, your local tackle shop will be glad to help for a reasonable charge. If your tackle was top quality, it pays to repair it. If it wasn't, you've learned a lesson and this time you may purchase quality goods.

Reels: Do you still have the manual that came with your reel? I hope so, because if you're an infrequent cleaner-repair man for your reels, you'll probably need a little help. Follow the diagrams as you disassemble it. Lay the parts out in the order you took them off. Sometimes an egg carton helps to keep the parts sorted. Your tackle dealer can help with knotty problems and most of them have a good stock of parts for most popular brands.

Line: If you do a lot of surf fishing (at least several times a week), or if you do a lot of daytime surf fishing, you should change your line at least once a month. You would be surprised how sunlight, the strength of a running fish, and the stress of casting, weakens monofilament lines. If you are not a frequent beachcomber, you should at least remove the last ten feet or so. This final section of line takes the bulk of the abuse.

Miscellaneous: You know, it's a funny thing how materials are easy to come by when you don't need them; but impossible to find when you're pressed for time. Take the time now and plan your tackle needs for the fall while most tackle shops are well stocked and you have the time to look.

Once you've gone through this rather lengthy check list, you should give some time and thought to the strategy that you'll use this fall. Check your log and see if there have been any patterns over the years. Among the places that you fish, where is your best chance of hanging a fish at what time, and under what conditions?

It would also be wise to check the timing of the moon phases for these upcoming productive periods. Fishing the proper moon phase in a given area is an important key to success. Sometimes, bait will only come close to the beach when very high tides, associated with the full and new moon periods, change the patterns of the currents. The reverse may also be true, but by matching the notes in your log with upcoming conditions, you should get an improved notion of when and where the fish are likely to hit the beach in a hungry mood!

Sometimes, it's wise to plan your fishing days in advance. Put them on the calendar, and it may ease the pain for your spouse to know when she can expect you to become a phantom.

Stick to your projected schedule. Overcome fatigue and push yourself. Remember that you have mapped out an attack that improves the odds. The chances are good that you'll get into fish and if you do, the adrenalin that you'll manufacture will easily overcome any and all fatigue problems!

Take a breath and get ready for the second season. I'm ready—are you?

THE FISHERMAN "IQ" TEST

(1) THERE ARE NO SEAGULLS IN HAWAII ALTHOUGH THE OCEAN IS WARM AND FISH ARE THERE.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) THE PEAK YEAR FOR SHARK ATTACKS ON HUMANS WAS
1949 ☐, 1959 ☐, 1969 ☐.

(3) WHAT IS THIS TOOL USED BY CERTAIN FISHERMEN?

(4) WHEN NOAH WAS AFLOAT ON HIS ARK DURING THE FLOOD HE FISHED FOR SURVIVAL.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(5) THE TREE LEAST LIKELY TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING IS THE..
OAK ☐, BEECH ☐, PINE ☐

(6) FISHERMEN SHOULD EXPECT FOUL WEATHER FOLLOWING:
☐ A RED SKY AT SUNRISE
☐ A RED SKY AT SUNSET.

(7) IS THERE REALLY A FISH WITH A HORN LIKE A UNICORN?

1 - TRUE. FOOD RESOURCES NORMALLY EATEN BY GULLS ARE NOT AVAILABLE.
2 - 1959. SINCE THEN THEY HAVE DECREASED AND NO ONE YET KNOWS WHY.
3 - AN ICE AUGER USED BY ICE FISHERMEN TO BORE HOLES THROUGH THE ICE.
4 - FALSE. NOAH WOULD HAVE HAD ONLY TWO WORMS TO USE FOR BAIT. 5 - THE BEECH. EVEN SO, STAY AWAY FROM ALL TALL TREES IN A THUNDER STORM. A ROCKY OVERHANG IS FAIRLY SAFE - SO IS A CAR BECAUSE THE RUBBER TIRES INSULATE THE BODY.
6 - RED SKY AT SUNRISE. 7 - NOT A FISH BUT A WHALE. THE NARWHAL HAS A LONG TWISTED TUSK WHICH PROJECTS FROM ITS HEAD AND IS HOLLOW AND BRITTLE AS GLASS.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

WRECK FISHING for DOORMAT FLUKE

The old fisherman was many things: about seventy, I would say; thin as most old-timers are; grizzled; stoop-shouldered, and—of great importance to me as a kid, he was kind.

He was also a complete stranger who, thanks to the fishing gods, happened to be my fishing companion on the port bow of the old Rose R II out of Canarsie where, on a beautiful late August day, we happily bailed sea bass and porgies from the bones of a New Jersey wreck. I didn't know it then, but I was about to receive a fishing education from a past master.

I clearly remember he had just tossed a sea bass into his butter tub when he turned and nudged me.

"Ever catch a doormat fluke, Sonny?" he asked.

"No, " I replied. "You?"

He nodded. "From time to time, Sonny. From time to time."

I now looked more closely at my rail companion. I figured any fisherman who had done that deserved renewed interest. "You must be a lucky fisherman," I said.

"Lucky?" He seemed taken back a bit by my comment. "Yes," he conceded. "That's part of it, I guess ... but not always. Knowledge, Sonny—that's what catches doormats. Knowledge."

I was only a kid with less than a year's party boat experience, but I knew the value of fishing knowledge; for it was not only something I realized I desperately needed, but it was also something I'd been seeking since the day I first placed bait on a hook.

No more was said on the matter, however, and I guess a half-hour passed as we each continued to deck fish. When he spoke again, it was getting close to whistle time—a sound every true party boat addict hates to hear.

Again he nudged me. "Got enough of these bass and porgies," he said. "Now let's see about nailing a doormat fluke."

He took me by surprise, for up until then, what doormat I'd seen taken were always from ocean beaches like Sandy Hook. "A doormat fluke? Here? On this wreck?"

"Sure, a doormat. Didn't you know those bruisers hang around these old wrecks in late summer?" Then, with a mischievous wink, he added: "Maybe, like you said, Sonny, I'll be lucky. Anyway, we'll see."

With that, he removed his hi-lo rig and substituted a three-foot leader, to which he attached a long-shanked hook. He then grabbed a medium-sized porgy from the tub, and with several deft strokes of his knife, removed both sides and sliced them into four-inch strips about an inch wide. He selected one of the pieces, inserted the hook once at the end and got it out about twenty feet with an underhand cast.

The instant it reached bottom, he began to jig and work the rig back, reeling in the slack as he went along. When the rig was straight up and down, he let it lie quietly for several seconds and then cautiously lifted the rod, feeling for the weight of a feeding fish.

When there was no action for a reasonable time, he reeled in and went through the same procedure again. This went on for several casts—which to me was discouraging, but not to this master fisherman whom I felt knew exactly what he was doing every step of the way.

And he did, for on one cast, while halfway through working his bait along the bottom, he reared back on the rod and drove the hook into a mighty surprised fluke. He battled it to the surface where the alerted mate stood by with the gaff. Deftly impaled through the head, the fluke was quickly lifted and dropped on deck.

"Seven pounds, if it's an ounce!" the delighted old man exclaimed as he removed the hook.

I, with my inexperience with big fluke, had no way of judging the accuracy of his estimate, but it looked like a whopping big fluke to me, and if the old man said seven pounds, then seven pounds it was.

It would make a better story if I could tell you the old fisherman caught a couple more big fluke—but he didn't—and I'd like to say he won the pool—but he didn't do that either. The money was taken, as I recall, by a big blackfish which barely nudged the fluke out of the running. But the old man didn't seem to mind this a bit. To him, it was evidently all part of the fishing game and he took it in stride.

The return trip was enlightening, as the old man unselfishly told me of his fishing experiences with doormat fluke. He stressed exactly what to do and what not to do, based on his many years of fluke hunting. He made a lasting impression on me, for even today, whenever I try for doormats on the wrecks, I can still see him standing at the rail offering words of encouragement. I don't think I'll ever forget the kindness he showed a fish-happy kid who so desperately needed his sort of knowledge at the time. He was quite a guy.

Since that long-ago day, I've caught my share of doormat fluke when wreck fishing. But I've never caught one accidentally—every one was purposely fished for. In the beginning, I made it a point to follow to the letter every bit of advice that old-timer gave me, and as the years passed, I added innovations of my own. Some worked, and some left much to be desired. Eventually, though, I learned to separate the wheat from the chaff.

To me—probably because I'm from the "remember when" school—a fluke doesn't merit the name "doormat" until it reaches ten pounds. I know I can receive plenty of flack making that statement, but by saying that, I don't mean to take anything away from the guy who nails a six or eight-pound fluke. These are good-sized fish, no doubt about it, and you may be sure I've spent many summer days wishing I could land just one of that size, instead of those average keepers and throwbacks so common today.

Which, of course, is all the more reason why fishermen should take advantage of the approaching season and set their sights on the available lunkers. There are plenty of fishermen who do just that.

In fact, I know a group of sharpies who never begin fluke fishing before September. They then fish a pre-selected group of offshore wrecks, dividing their time among them and giving each one a rest in its turn. They often score heavily with this method, and are more than content to leave run-of-the-mill summer fluke fishing to guys like us. I don't go for that, though. I like fishing too much to limit my fluke fun to a couple of weeks a year.

Tackle is no problem for this wreck fishing. Any medium-weight conventional rod with a matching reel capable of holding at least 100 yards of 30 or 40 pound good quality monofilament will do the job. My choice leans to the 40 pound stuff.

Forget spinning tackle: using this around wrecks will get you nowhere. You need a rod with oomph to get a large fluke started. Most doormats have the annoying habit of sticking to the bottom as if suctioned there. I sometimes think large fluke never realize they've been hooked until pried loose. And for that bit of doing, you'll need something with more backbone than a spinning outfit.

I mentioned using some of my own innovations when wreck fishing for doormats. One of these is a four-foot leader in place of the usual three-footer. In other articles on this subject, I acknowledged that I didn't know why a four-footer usually outfishes a shorter leader in these places. I still don't know; but I do know I have more success when using them. Why this should be so is anybody's guess, and outside of the possibility of better bait presentation, I've never been able to come up with a more satisfactory answer. I do know, though, that that extra foot can make all the difference in the world.

These four-footers are hard to come by unless you make them up yourself. This is easily accomplished by adding an ordinary fluke hook to a three-foot leader. Or if you care to experiment and know how to snell hooks, you can drop a post card to Midland Tackle Co., 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974, and request their catalog which lists 47 inch leader material in various weights. This will be close enough for your purpose. I find when wreck fishing, it's best to use 40 pound test leader material.

Which now brings us to the correct hook for doormat fluke. There isn't a master fisherman I know who doesn't have his own ideas on hooks. Although space allotments do not allow me to go into a more detailed discussion on this

extremely interesting subject, I will say that any fisherman who purposely fishes for doormat fluke and uses anything but a long-shanked 5/0 or 6/0 Carlisle hook is foolish, indeed. Regular-shanked Sproat, O'Shaughnessey, and Limerick hooks will get by with little difficulty when fluke fishing inshore bays and other sheltered areas, but forget them when offshore wreck fishing.

When you first notice that cavernous mouth, armed with those wicked-looking teeth and you realize it's up to you to get the hook out, you'll be glad you used a long-shanked Carlisle. Even with a billy in use, I still don't trust a large fluke. I've seen them come back to life too many times—painfully lacerating an over-confident fisherman's fingers. In this respect, I place them on par with a blue. Use a long-shanked Carlisle in the proper size and you should have no trouble.

The use of hardware in the form of a three-way swivel is your choice. It isn't absolutely necessary, although it is an aid when drifting. If you decide to use one, it should be at least 4/0 in size. Many fishermen tie the leader directly to the main line after first forming a two-inch loop about three inches above the sinker.

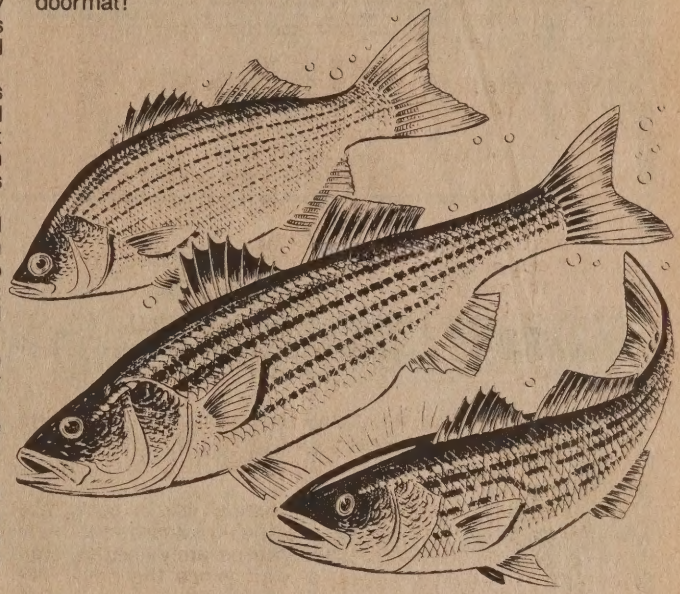
Sinker weight varies, depending on depth of water and strength of current. When drifting near wrecks, an eight or ten ounce bank sinker may be necessary, but you should be able to get by with one of five or six ounces when anchored. Don't forget to bring extra hooks and sinkers; wreck fishing can, and often does, take a toll of terminal tackle.

Like the proper tackle, bait for doormat fluke is also no problem. If it swims, or appears to be swimming, they'll go for it. This is why you should give your bait plenty of action, especially when anchored. Rarely will a small, live bergall be refused. Run the hook in the mouth and out the gill cover—carefully! If you catch a summertime dogfish, don't throw it back—welcome it with open arms. I don't think there is a finer bait than this for big fluke. Slice off the sides and cut into five-inch tapered strips about an inch wide and hook only once at the wide end. This bait may appear to be too large, but don't let that worry you—doormats won't think so.

Large squid strips, whole sea robin sides, long strips of belly from a smaller fluke, and extra-large killies, have produced many doormats for enterprising fishermen. And don't forget to use unscaled strips of whatever fish are predominant on the wreck at the time you're fishing. Remember the old man and his porgy strips.

When using such baits, always allow the fluke time to get it down, and don't worry about setting the hook. Nine out of ten times, it will do that for you.

The time for wreck fishing for doormat fluke is at hand. The opportunity is there. Take advantage of it. When you've got your fill of sea bass and porgies, or what have you, change your rigging and do what the old-timer did: catch yourself a doormat!



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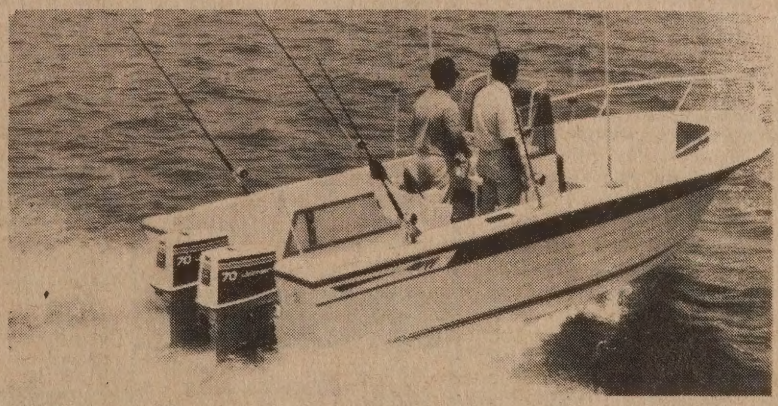

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	10:56	11:14	11:39	11:55	11:33	11:43	—	12:26	1:45	2:08	2:03	2:26	11:00	11:08	8/18
FRI	11:43	—	—	12:26	—	12:24	12:47	1:15	2:29	2:55	2:47	3:13	11:48	12:00	8/19
SAT	12:05	12:38	12:42	1:17	12:33	1:15	1:39	2:08	3:20	3:45	3:38	4:04	—	12:40	8/20
SUN	1:02	1:37	1:35	2:17	1:31	2:11	2:36	3:07	4:13	4:42	4:34	5:02	12:54	1:36	8/21
MON	2:04	2:40	2:36	3:22	2:33	3:11	3:41	4:11	5:14	5:45	5:37	6:05	1:55	2:37	8/22
TUE	3:09	3:45	3:47	4:29	3:39	4:17	4:49	5:18	6:27	7:02	6:42	7:09	3:01	3:44	8/23
WED	4:14	4:46	4:57	5:37	4:53	5:25	5:55	6:21	8:09	8:39	7:48	8:15	4:13	4:51	8/24
THUR	5:15	5:44	6:06	6:38	6:02	6:29	6:57	7:20	9:26	9:47	8:52	9:15	5:23	5:54	8/25

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/4	5:56	8:15
8/9	6:01	8:09
8/14	6:06	8:02
8/19	6:12	7:55
8/24	6:17	7:47
8/29	6:22	7:39

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/14	8/22	8/28	8/6

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	8:00	**2:15**	8:25	**2:40**
FRI.	8:55	**3:10**	9:20	**3:35**
SAT.	9:50	**4:05**	10:15	**4:35**
SUN.	10:50	**5:00**	11:10	**5:25**
MON.	11:40	**5:55**	—	**6:30**
TUES.	12:05	**6:50**	12:45	**7:20**
WED.	12:55	**7:45**	1:35	**8:15**
THURS.	1:55	**8:40**	2:30	**9:05**

MAKO MOON

by Bob Orrok

The moon broke clear of the horizon and rose full in the clear sky above, while the ocean at 130 feet was calm and transparent. Below the surface at 30 feet, swam a big, graceful fish, beautifully proportioned with a body built for raw power and speed. Its back is a vivid ultramarine blue, with silver sides and a bottom as white as a cloud.

Deep black menacing eyes show no expression, while the stiff-bodied swimmer glides forward from short strokes of its thick, powerful tail. He is a nocturnal hunter and he is looking for food. His teeth identify him as a mako shark—all eight rows of curved, claw-like fangs.

With little to fear, he slides forward, heading west with the ease and grace of a Panther. Fast enough to catch mackerel, bluefish, bonito, or tuna, he can turn it on and tear through the water like a runaway torpedo. When he finds his prey, they may scatter, but never out-swim this hunter.

His sleek body is covered with a network of sensory organs, making him one of the most sensitive and responsive animals in the ocean. Because of this built-in radar, he can sense vibrations from potential prey at great distances.

With this God-given gift, he can actually detect other fish long before his other senses come into play—smell and sight.

When his sense of smell comes into play, he uses it to its fullest; he's like a swimming nose. He tracks back and forth like a working bird dog, till he hones in on the exact direction of its source. Slow and calculating, he never rushes in at this stage. He just keeps using his hunting equipment till he is in range to make use of his lidless black eyes.

The powerful set of jaws is full of teeth that are built to hold and tear whatever they clamp down on. From this nightmare mouth, there is no escape.

The moon is higher now; the birds of the sea are gone, and the stars are out to play. A signal in the water reaches the great fish and he reacts by dropping his left pectoral fin, and does a slow, turning dive, for the signal seems to be coming from just above his thirty-foot kingdom.

Pushing forward at fifty feet, he tunes in on the vibrations that call him. After a few spasmodic turns, he begins on a straight course—he's locked in.

After a short distance, the smell of bluefish reaches his pointed nose. He bores in. His caudal keel keeps him stabilized and with locked pectoral fins, he maintains his fifty-foot depth. As hungry as he is, he doesn't change his pace, for he does not want to lose the signals he is reading in on.

Excitement within causes his mouth to slowly open a little, and close, as he continues to test the water he is pushing through. The vibrations are stronger and

the smell is distinct. He knows he's close to his next meal.

Shadows ahead and above reach his line of vision. He has found a small school of 10 to 15 pound blues, which are busy feeding on sand eels just under the surface. The water is filled with bits and pieces, as the frenzied blues tear into the sand eels unaware of the danger below.

Staying below and in sight of the school, the big shark cruises in a wide circle around the massacre above, looking for the perfect spot to attack. He wants to hit the middle of the school broadside, if possible. His excitement is almost pain; but he waits.

Then the hunter banks sharply and charges up from below at full speed. Going through the school, he closes his mouth on a 15 pound bluefish as he breaks the surface and continues upward, clearing the water a good 12 feet. He hangs in the sky with the blue in his mouth, an instant before he re-enters in a crashing shower of spray.

Two gulps and the blue is down—broken, but in one piece. He lines up on another blue that is tearing across the surface. He feels the pushed water on his face as the blue, inches ahead of him, tries in vain to out-run the swift creature on its tail.

With a burst of blinding speed, he overtakes the blue, and his jaws snap shut on the tail section, breaking bone. Struggling and bleeding, the big bluefish is right in front of his nose. He turns away a short distance, does a sharp U-turn and returns—hitting the blue broadside, sinking his teeth into flesh and bone. Twice he opens and closes his mouth on the blue, crushing it before he forces the food to his stomach. Going into a shallow dive, he picks up pieces from the attack and continues his westerly course.

After hours of slow swimming, he comes upon a ridge rising up from the bottom. From ahead, he picks up heavy vibes. Although unfamiliar, these vibes call him. A strong scent of menhaden reaches him. He glides to the surface letting his dorsal fin touch the night air. The smell of the water around him tells him there is a great school of menhaden ahead, which means unlimited food.

Entering an area where the taste and smell of menhaden is strong, he becomes confused, for the water is filled with bits and pieces. He dives and heads for the source of the vibration. Above, he sees a whale with light shining on the water all around it. The menhaden seems to be strongest right there. "Is it coming from the whale with the blue bottom?"

Cruising over a wide area, he finds more whales on the surface. The smell of bluefish is close, but always they seem to be swimming away full speed at the edge of his vision.

Not liking the milky green water, he follows the moonbeam and heads back out to the deep, clear water he likes best. All the noise made him forget food and the call of survival urged him to leave.

As the sun split the sky, the seas were still calm and the birds flew again. Below, the great fish enjoyed his kingdom—for he is the king, and the night was his. It was the night of the Mako Moon.

THE HUMPBACKS OF MONTAUK

by Ron Onorato

Part Two—PORGIES

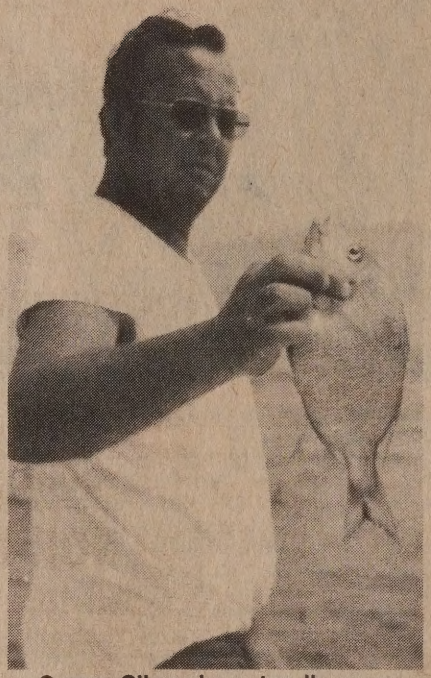
The second member of this group is perhaps the most numerous of the trio. After many years of sporadic action, the porgies stormed back in very good numbers in the early 70s, and have been around in pretty good quantities since then. Last year at Montauk, the porgies showed up pretty early—around the beginning of July—and the first fish were very big. There was some very fast fishing for big porgies through July and early August, but the fishing tapered off after that. The early blasts of cold weather sent the porgies scurrying offshore earlier than usual, and the mid-August hurricane really disrupted the fishing. Commercial landings of porgies have been pretty substantial; and there was a very good body of very tiny porgies in Gardiner's Bay, so the stock of fish seems to be in pretty healthy condition.

The porgy is basically a warm-water fish, that prefers water temperatures in the mid to upper sixty degree range. This usually limits the porgy season on Long Island to about three months: July, August, and September, with some overlapping into October during an exceptionally mild Autumn. If the Spring is on the mild side, the porgies may then show up in June. Usually the first fish show up in Gardiner's Bay weeks ahead of the arrival of the Montauk fish. After a month or so up at the warmer waters of Gardiner's Bay, the fish then spread to Montauk waters.

Porgies are a densely schooling fish, perhaps more so than any other bottom species. Once you've located a single fish, there are usually tons more down there. Fish can run anywhere from a half pound all the way up to those four pound humpbacks that you need a net to land. Most average between one and two pounds at Montauk, with a fair amount of three pounders; the run of fish at Gardiner's usually consists of smaller fish.

Despite their seeming abundance, many fishermen have a problem with porgies at times. This usually results from improper tackle selection, or improper fishing techniques. While the porgy isn't the most difficult fish in the world to catch, the knowledgeable fisherman will do better than the haphazard angler.

The first thing to remember is that the porgy is primarily a bottom fish—rarely straying more than a foot or so off the bottom. If the fish are especially heavy on a certain piece of bottom, they may stack up a little higher, but don't look for them any above fifteen or sixteen inches off the bottom.



George Oliver shows two lb. porgy taken under Montauk Pt. Lighthouse.

Porgies have fairly small mouths and their diets consist of small mussels, crabs, clams, and occasionally, small bait fish. Porgies, often referred to as Scup in more northerly waters, lack a set of teeth and take down their food usually in whole bites; that is why a soft bait is preferred over a hard bait. The fish are quick as lightning when grabbing a meal, and are extremely strong fighters for their size. They develop their muscles trying to swim in the fast tide rips of Montauk waters.

The key to good porgy fishing is finding the right type of bottom that the fish feed on. This usually consists of tiny mussels about half the size of your thumbnail. The fish feed extensively on these tiny mussels, and because they are pretty easy to crush, the porgies have no trouble getting them down. The waters around the Montauk Lighthouse are loaded with acres and acres of these mussel beds, and some of the best fishing is found right under the Lighthouse itself. Other bottoms such as hard rock often hold fish, as will the wrecks, but the mussel beds are the porgy producers.

Let's take a look at the tackle and terminal rigging, and then we'll move along into the fishing techniques. First the rod and reel: despite repeated advice on this matter, a great many anglers still insist on using spinning tackle for this type of fishing. You're going to be fishing in an area where—when conditions are just right—you'll still have to use at least three or four ounces of lead. No way in the world you're going to use this much lead comfortably on any spinning outfit. The case, more often than not, is to use six or eight ounces of lead in that rip-roaring tide. You may be able to use the lighter outfits around the slack water period, but usually the fishing isn't that good when the tide isn't running fast. It seems that the faster the current is running, the better the fishing is. Stick to a light conventional outfit in the twenty pound range with complementing 20 pound test, or even 15 pound test. The lighter the line test, the lighter the sinker you can use. You don't have to go overboard either, and bring out a bluefish stick—just a balanced outfit to fill the bill.

Another area where most anglers go astray is in the size of the hook they use: you can rarely use a hook too small on a porgy, but it is very easy to use too big a hook. The fish have a very small mouth and you have to accommodate it. Even for those big two and three pound fish, a #4 Eagle Claw is about the biggest we'll use. If the fish are running less than that—as they often do—a #6 Eagle Claw is the biggest that should be used. Most of the hooks that are sold as porgy hooks in tackle shops, are altogether too big. It is far better to go to the smaller hook than stay with a bigger one.

Normally more than one hook is used when porgy fishing, with two and often three hooks being employed. The reason for this is not really to try to shoot for two or three fish at a time, but to try to nail just one. As mentioned earlier, the porgies are about the fastest hitting fish around. Once you've got a steady pick of fish going, the fish swarm onto the bait like candy. It seems that the fish don't even give you a chance to get the slack out of the line before they have one or more baits off the hook. With three baited hooks, you have at least a chance at one fish, before they clean the bait off

that one. The hooks are rigged just above the sinker and are snelled onto lengths of the first hook. A third hook is then attached to the line about nine or ten inches above the first and lower hook.

Although there are many baits that will take fish, fresh skimmer clam is about the most popular and most economical to use. Fresh or frozen squid will work well at times, but rates a distant second when compared with fresh skimmer clam. It should be added that frozen skimmers—which often are the only ones available—are like mush when they thaw out and serve no purpose as a porgy bait. The thing to do is buy a bushel or so of fresh skimmers when they are available and shuck them out of their shells. When kept in a cooler, they will hold for several days before getting soft.

Another big error many anglers make, is using too large a piece of bait on the hook. The same rule for the bait, as with the hook size—the smaller the size of the bait, the better are the chances of nailing the fish. With skimmer clams, a half-inch wide, by about an inch long strip will fit the hook nicely. This bait is threaded onto the hook several times, with just a tiny bit flowing off the end. You don't want to give the fish too much to grab or he'll yank it right off the hook. It seems they suck a smaller bait right down without having to peck at it a couple of times.

As far as when to hit a porgy, it has been said that the best time to hit a porgy is before he bites. This may be a bit exaggerated, but it gives you an idea of how fast a porgy will grab a bait. The best time to try to hook the fish is at the first sign of a bite. Porgies don't fool around: they take the bait and run if you're not on the ball. You can always tell when someone is a good porgy fisherman: if he's doing a lot of yanking with very little catching, then he's a bit slow on the draw. A good porgy "jerker" will be able to nail about half of the hits he gets. If you do better than that—then you're a real pro.

Porgies usually settle into the same areas at Montauk each year; but last year, the fish were found in different areas, as well as their customary grounds. For example, the fish were solid right under the Lighthouse and areas to the West, right under the beach in twenty feet of water; yet right outside the twin jetties of Montauk Harbor, at Culloden Point, porgies of all sizes were there for a couple of weeks. The famous Great Eastern buoy—with the exception of some early season porgy action—was pretty quiet for most of the year. Other hot areas included several pieces of ground west of the Midway buoy.

The way to locate a body of fish, without the use of an elaborate bottom recorder, is to try blind drifting over several areas until the fish are located in good quantity. As previously mentioned, where you find one porgy, you'll usually find a batch of them. It shouldn't be too hard to locate the fish when they're around in quantity.

After you've gotten a few fish drifting, the next thing to do is anchor and get the

(Continued on page 42.)

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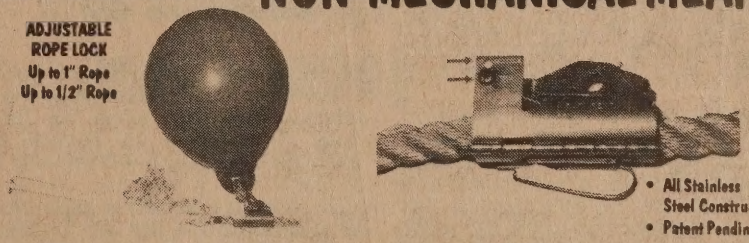

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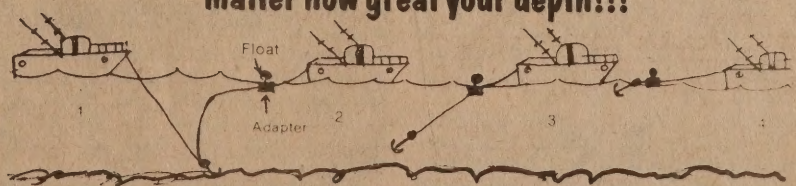

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Western Long Island Sound Blues

with Ted Keatley

August in Western Long Island Sound means the start of the season's peak bluefishing period. Bluefish wildness affects both fishermen and non-fishermen (there are a lot of the latter on the butt end of fishing rods at this time of year). Sporting goods dealers have visions of dollar signs dancing through their cash registers as they contemplate the tremendous sale of lures to replace those eaten, stolen or chewed to pieces by the choppers.

However, unlike the early 1970's, the past two seasons have left much to be desired. Last year, most action was restricted to a few schools of alligator blues which moved rapidly from harbor to harbor gnawing on bunkers. Twenty-four hours could be the difference between fantastic fishing and a quiet, uneventful boat ride.

Actually, we have had consistent bluefishing in Western Long Island Sound only since the mid-1960s. Prior to that, the nearest good possibility for blues was the Middle Ground off Bridgeport, although there was sporadic action westward to the Norwalk Islands and Eatons.

One of the keys to good bluefishing is a plentiful supply of bait fish—bunkers, sand eels, spearing and juvenile mackereal and herring. Lack of bait was one of the reasons why the past two years were not too productive. It takes a large body of bait to hold a school of blues in an area.

From the point of view of fishermen, as well as the tackle dealers who provide the lures, the ideal situation is a heavy concentration of young bunkers and sand eels. These are basically surface fish. They pull the blues up to the top where they can be taken with light tackle instead of lures deep trolled on wire line.

Blues can be caught by virtually any fishing technique—casting, trolling, still fish cut bait and live lined bunkers.

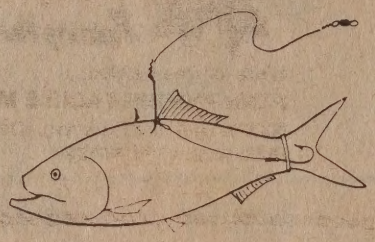
As indicated previously, casting to blues on top is the method preferred by the majority of fishermen. It provides the most sport and the greatest possibility of acrobatics by the hooked fish.

Normally, blues in a feeding frenzy will hit anything that moves. However, there are exceptions. I recall an incident at Buoy 42 off Mamaroneck a few years ago, when a friend found this out the hard way. We came upon a school of fish balling up young bunkers on the surface. I began throwing a 5½ swimming plug and Joe began heaving a stainless steel jig. The plug produced a strike on every cast—in fact when a blue broke free, another would hit the lure before I completed the retrieve. Joe did not boat a fish until he switched to a plug like mine.

The jig was a very effective and popular one often used for bluefish. However, it wasn't what the fish had in mind that day.

In a similar instance early last summer, I found blues feeding on sand eels at the east end of Stamford's Shippan Point. I threw everything at them except the rod and reel, without a strike. They ignored plugs, jigs, spoons and mackerel chunks as they chased the sand eels back and forth in front of my boat.

So, if you are casting to surfacing blues, be prepared to change lures when your first offering fails to attract interest. However, be reconciled to the fact that, on occasion, nothing short of dynamite will divert their attention from the particular bait which they are chasing.



Live bunker rig with tail hook held in place by rubber band.

Wire line trolling is probably the most effective technique when the fish are deep. This is not my favorite sport, although I will play if it is the only game in town.

Dependent upon water depth and the level at which the fish are feeding, the amount of wire run can vary from 100 feet to 300 feet, plus. Unless the water is under 25 feet, 150-200 feet is a good starting point. If this does not produce results, vary the length of wire until something begins to happen on the other end of the line. A general rule of thumb is that each 100 feet of wire takes the line down 100 feet at average trolling speeds. Of course, strength and direction of currents, boat speed and the action of the lure itself will have an effect on depth.

If most strikes occur on sharp turns, this would indicate that the lure is too high on straight trolls and more wire should be let out. On a sharp turn, the lure usually drops 10-15 feet deeper.

Many prefer a narrow spool, fast retrieve reel such as the Penn 49M, 149M and 349HC, although I use the large Penn 309 level wind. With a full spool, the 309 lets out 13 feet of line each time that the guide moves the width of the reel. This is a lot easier to control than the usual conventional reel method of marking the line at 50 foot intervals with vinyl tape or nail polish.

Many tie 20-30 feet of monofilament between the wire and the lure, although I use only five to six feet with no adverse effect upon results. My reason for the short leader is that the necessary connecting swivel will not go through the level wind line guide readily.

Many types of lures are used—plugs, jigs, spoons, umbrellas and coathangers.

Umbrellas are a little too much hardware. Among the other types, I have found that the coathanger produces most consistently. I have learned that a little added weight usually increases the effectiveness though. I normally put a two ounce sliding egg sinker on the monofilament leader.

The coathanger is nothing but a wire arm similar to the tailor shop namesake with a tube lure attached to each extremity and a third with a longer leader running back from the center point. When putting out a coathanger, hold it alongside the boat for a few seconds to be certain that the tubes spin properly. It is often necessary to adjust the tubing after a strike.

Spoons, jigs, lead head nylon lures such as the Goo-Goo Eyes Troll King and big single tubes also have their adherents.

One disadvantage of the jigs is that they have no action of their own and the fisherman must keep the lure in constant motion. Waving a rod tip back and forth for hours on end with a couple hundred feet of wire streaming out behind the boat is more exercise than I really want.

Some of the regulars who work Eatons when the fish school up in the fall prefer large plugs such as the Goo-Goo Eyes Big Daddy. These plugs have one advantage over the coathanger—they are attractive to big bass as well as blues.

A more relaxing method is fishing cut bait on the bottom. Pieces of mackerel or bunker are normally used. Mackerel can be either fresh or frozen. However, I take a rather dim view of using frozen bunker.

The biggest advantage of cut baiting is that it is possible to fish bottom in deep water without the aggravation of wire line. All that is needed is a **sharp** 6/0 to 7/0 hook on a 12 inch nylon coated cable leader attached to a monofilament line with a swivel. The need for lead is dependent upon water depth and current strength. One-half to one ounce is normally sufficient and a light sinker seems less likely to spook fish. However, on a fast tide in deep water, two, three, or even four ounces may be required to get down to the proper depth. I prefer to

use a sliding egg sinker on the monofilament above the swivel.

One caution—the possibility of attempting to set the hook too soon is far greater than that of waiting too long. Fish with the click on and the reel in free spool. When a fish picks up the bait, allow at least 40-50 feet of line to peel off the reel before setting the hook.

The final technique is live lining bunkers. This is a lot of work and most fishermen prefer not to bother with live bunkers when bluefishing.

However, there are times when live bait will produce action while those using cut bait or lures are doing nothing. This is particularly true when working shallow inshore waters. I fished live bunkers one day outside the reefs at the mouth of the Mianus River in Cos Cob and caught fish after fish, while the cut bait fishermen around me were doing nothing. Once I ran out of live bunkers and had to rely upon bunker chunks, I did no better than anyone else.

A difficulty with live bunkers is that the blue's first move is to snap off the bunker's tail with one chop. I have solved this problem by using tandem rigs which I make myself.

I attach a second hook to the shank of the first with about four inches of nylon coated cable. If the loop is pulled up tight against the shank of the first hook before the sleeve is crimped, there is no danger of it slipping off. The barb acts as a stop to prevent this.

When rigging, I run the first hook under the dorsal fin of the bunker. The second hook is held in place by a rubber band slipped over the tail. This rear hook is not inserted into the fish.

Ideal rubber bands are available at the cosmetic counter of any five and ten. They are intended for the pony tails of little girls.

The bunker should not be allowed to take out more than 75-100 feet of monofilament. A longer line makes hook setting too difficult. It is also advisable to retrieve line as necessary to keep slack at a minimum. It is important for fast hook setting to have the straightest possible line between your rod tip and the bunker.

The reel should be fished in free spool with either the click on or an attentive finger on the spool.

One of the problems fishing live bunkers inshore is determining whether the commotion at the other end of the line is being caused by a bluefish or a striped bass. It is essential to hook a bluefish rather quickly or you will wind up with either a piece of bunker or a bare hook. However, setting on a bass before the bait has been swallowed usually means a lost fish.

Sometimes, the fish will roll and you can see whether it is a blue or bass that is giving the bunker a nervous breakdown. More often than not, only deep swirls are visible.

As a rule, a series of sharp yanks means a bluefish. A bass normally takes the bunker and runs steadily with it. A striper should not be struck until it has taken at least 50-75 feet of line.

So, follow the above instructions, but don't come around to punch me in the nose because you lost a trophy striped bass which didn't abide by the rules!

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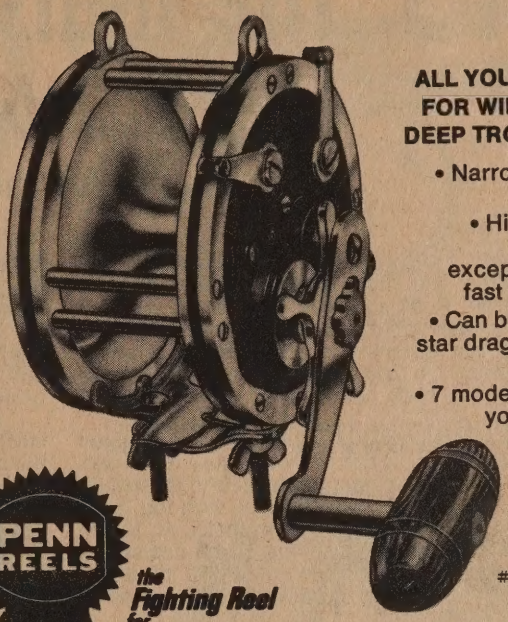

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GAFFS: The Indispensable Hook

by Dick Mermon

★PART ONE★

Fishing equipment has gone from the simplicity of a willow limb to some of the most sophisticated space age material, such as boron. Rods and reels are on the verge of becoming automatic in their actions. Each piece of equipment, from lures to reels, has advanced dramatically in styling, cosmetics and material. A utensil which has not been drastically modified is a hook called the "gaff, " or the indispensable hook.

A gaff is merely a tool by which a fisherman is assisted either in lifting or holding onto a fish without injury to himself or herself. Such instruments are essential for every fisherman, no matter where he or she angles. Similarly, as with rod, reel, line and fishhook, the angler must make a choice as to the proper gaff for the job. Without such a tool, even customary skiff or rowboat fishing people could run into a wild situation, finding themselves hooked onto a big striper, or some other game fish.

Gaffs come in a variety of sizes, from a teeny bopper to giant hooker; long-shafted or short stubbed, permanent mounted and quick releases. Each design is utilized for specific species of fish, angling method, or how it is to be applied. Available are small size hooks that fit the need, as well as a tackle box. These are ideally suited for lifting fish into a small boat, or when wading flats. The very same gaff can be taken anyplace a fisherman travels. Some of these mini-gaffs can be dismantled and made less in length. It is almost as though a manufacturer says, "here it is—use it." These are called release gaffs, merely designed for hook removal, rather than liberating the fish.

Surf fishermen find this hook almost as valuable as hooks on a lure, especially when waist deep in water, or even neck deep (for the wet suited surfmen). A charging bluefish on the end of an eleven-and-a-half foot stick becomes rather cumbersome to grab without a gaff; or trying to flip a blue under one arm, while holding a rod in the opposite, is a wee bit dangerous. One inaccurate slip and the chopper has made a new armpit, no matter what the aroma is.

Congruent is a hooked striper, except it is not teeth which are hazardous, but gill plates and dorsal fin. Small bass are more troublesome than larger, because no matter where a fish is grabbed, the angler's flesh is either cut or pricked by a spine. A small gaff prevents accidents of this sort from occurring. Usually this type of gaff is worn attached to the surf fisherman's waist belt, by a flexible extension cord. This cord stretches and also prevents the hook from becoming lost while underwater. Another point about gaffs used by surf anglers is that they do not have to move from a location to land a fish. When action is fast, the line forms to the rear as far as positions go. Leaving a spot sometimes creates the closing of a breach; returning may mean tighter shoulders and rising tempers.

Small gaffs, as well as larger ones, should be of quality manufacturing. Some metal hooks are rather thin and will not stand the abuse a surf man gives it. Most often, when a fish is nearby, excitement levitates, and grabbing his gaff, the surf angler slams the hook downward atop a fish. I struck this way only once at a fish and came up minus the business end. Its steel hook broke at its attachment, leaving me with a stumpy, and the bass my gaff. A well-manufactured, stainless steel hook would have never broken off in such a manner, even though I did hit a fish that way.

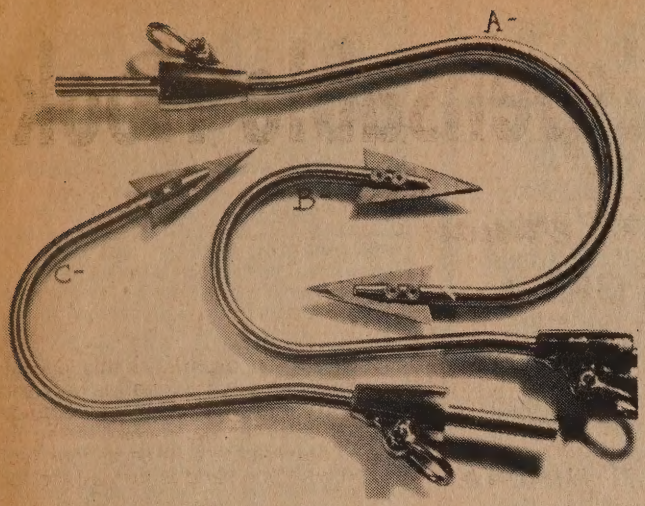
Shoreline and sod bank casters require a slightly longer-handled gaff. This requires a length of three to five feet, with a slightly wider hook gap, or bend. Usually a slight extension handle is all that is necessary to reach out over a sod bank to stick a fish. Small boat anglers experience this lengthy gaff reliable when fishing alone. An extension gaff is not used as a club during a striking application. An angler must guide the captured species over the upturned gaff hook, lifiting its point into the fish. Trying to manipulate a three or four foot gaff in batting practice style with one hand is just asking for trouble.

While shorter gaff handles need not be of excessively strong material, because of the primary uplifting, longer handled ones require leverage in holding a fish as it struggles while it's boosted. The handle must be of estimable stock: salt water plays havoc with wood handles when least expected. Rot occurs under the wire overwinds of the steel shaft and is unnoticeable until pressure is applied to the section. Water saturation at this point sometimes never dries if covered by Fiberglas cloth, causing a weak link at the leverage point. Wood also splinters when nicked, or from constant soaking of its grain. This rise and fall of the grain cripples the wood's strength. Poor quality aluminum used in some manufactured gaff handles become pitted and bend easily. They also dent very gracefully when unexpected force is administered. Small and medium gaff handles made of aluminum should be elements designed for saltwater resistance. Tubes of .035 wall thickness and an O.D. (outside diameter) of one inch or more, are excellent choices. Fiberglas tubing, which is not without its faults, is considered as one of the best sources for handles from mini-hooks to eight-foot lengths. Wall thickness is a main factor in its flexibility and strength. It will resist all natural hazards, weather elements, saltwater—even human application. It does become affected by severe blows, but a uni-directional fiber system of Fiberglas tubing has been well proven in the fishing field for several years.

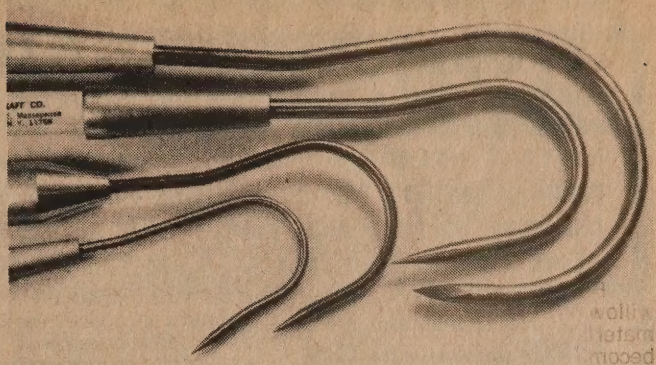
Long-handled hooks are vital to jetty jockeys working high stones for bass and bluefish. Though they may seem cumbersome and ungainly, the long shaft design is what has saved fish from being lost at the stones, or broken off. I have been grateful many times for my eight-foot Fiberglas sticker while fishing the old stones of Long Beach and Jones Inlet. One such long-handled gaff saved me from a dunking, when a wave lifted me from the stone. It was not a crashing wave, but a simple wash that lifted me up from the flat rock. If it were not for the gaff which was wedged between two stones, I would probably still be swimming. Night is the essential period when these long-handled hooks are indispensable for groin jockeys. Nocturnal stone anglers demand every hand and foothold to bring in a thrashing bass. With its extended length, a batting motion is impossible; therefore, the fish is maneuvered over the lowered, upturned point and is lifted.

For all night fishing jaunts—whether it be surf, stones, sod banks, or boat—there should be some sort of system so that an angler knows exactly when a gaff hook point is upwards in a proper position without seeing it. Some manufacturers have the grips turned in a direction in which its finger form lies, in position with the point of the hook. Others are just placed in a haphazard manner, leaving the decision to the fisherman as to where the point is. A simple white stripe painted on the gaff shaft would indicate that the bend and point is upwards.

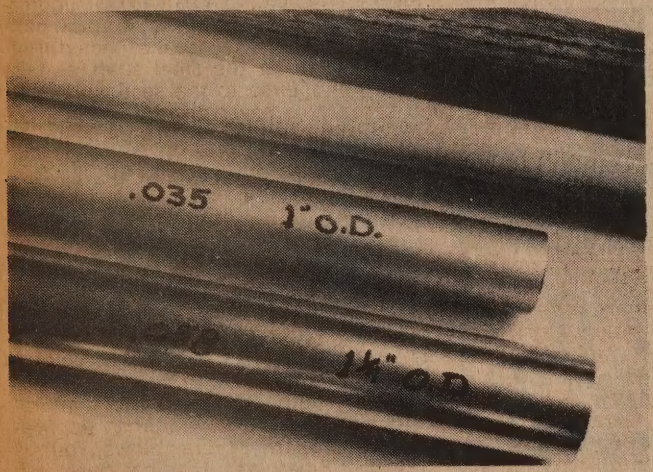
★ To be continued next week ★



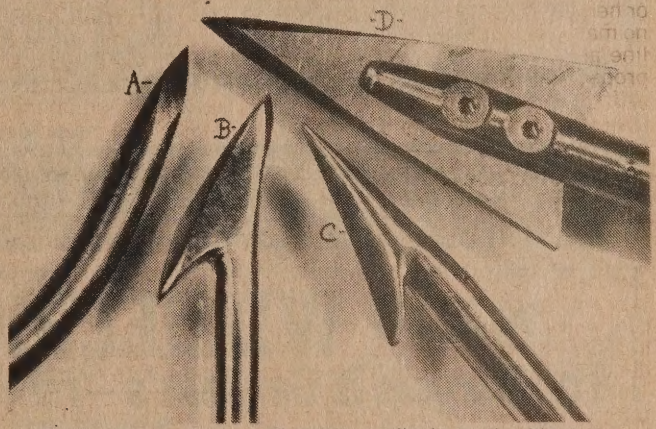
Three bends of a flying gaff shank which were used, and in some places still are: A—straight; B—curve; C—outward.



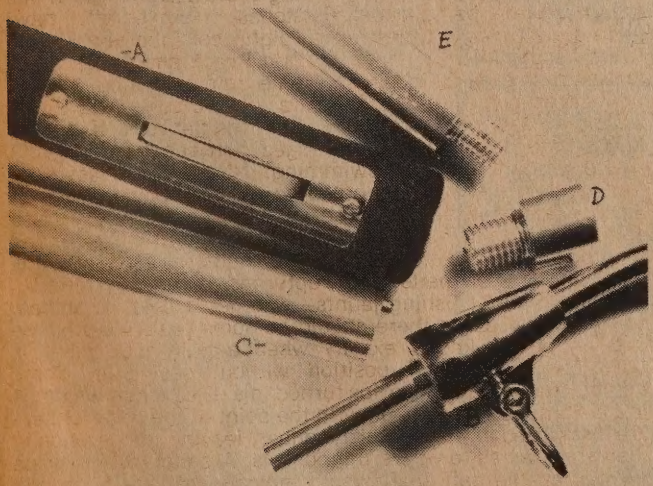
Various sizes of gaff hooks and thickness of their steel points depend upon where one is to be used and on what type fish.



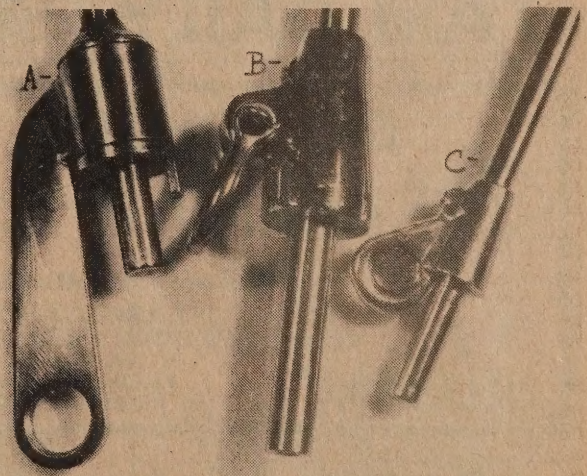
Three common materials used for gaffs: wood, Howald Process Fiberglas, and tube aluminum (top to bottom). The two aluminum tubes are standard sizes which are the best thickness for its strength.



Four common flying gaff points available to the big game fishermen today are: A—Standard point with no barb; B—Pomponette point with a barb inside the curve; C—Wonder Gaff has its barb on the outside of the curve; D—Reliable Gaff and its arrowhead removable point and double barb facing inward and outward.



Modernization of the flying gaff shows: A—a new type rear trigger release of the hook and attached rope; B—the locking head of cast brass fastened to a rust resistant, high-grade stainless steel; C—aluminum tube corrosion resistant, 1¼" O.D., with locking hook mechanism; D—threaded gimbal which fits into the base of the handle; E—extension handles with threading to reach out further.



Three popular flying gaffs and their shaft collars where the rope or cable is attached: A—Wonder Gaff has a stainless steel lever welded to a sleeve which swivels on ball bearings. Its release is by force or impact; B—Reliable Gaff has a stainless steel shackle and pin, secured to a molded brass collar, directly in line with the point. Release of the hook is by a trigger on the base of the handle; C—Pomponette has a cast brass ring and collar in one unit, secured in line with the barb. It is released by force, also on impact.

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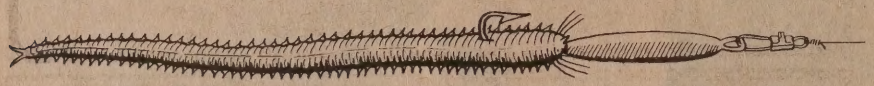

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that the boat has been loading up on porgies around the lighthouse. The average angler is catching between 25 and 40 nice fish, and the high hook is usually around 80; to 90 porgies. The porgy fishing has been so good that the **Marlin IV** is no longer fluke fishing and now will be sailing exclusively for porgies weekdays 6:30 A.M. and Sat. and Sun. at 5 A.M.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that he has been murdering the striped bass on the incoming tide with his new style jig. On Fri. morning 25 bass were taken at the Elbow and Great Eastern, including a 51 pounder that jumped on the jig. Six bass were taken on Saturday and on Sunday 9 stripers were taken, largest 33 and 40 pounds. Weakfishing has been fantastic around Midway and the Triangle using diamond jigs and tube lures. On Sat. afternoon's trip 103 fish were taken that weighed 600 pounds. Most of the catch was weakfish but there are a few blues mixed in.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** has been fishing the lighthouse and North Grounds for porgies. Most of the week the high hook catch numbered in the hundreds. On Sat. the top three anglers aboard averaged 103 fish each. Sundays high hook was John Murcheson of Highland Falls N.Y. with 111 fish despite the wind and rain. The porgies are medium sized with sea bass, blues and fluke mixed in.

Frieda at the **Cove Marina** reported that the fishing has been fantastic. Bluefish, weakfish and bonito are being taken in great quantities south of Midway by the MP Buoy using diamond jigs. Porgy fishing remains excellent but the sea bass fishing is still slow. Stripers are being picked up at Great Eastern on Ava 87 diamond jigs during the incoming tide. Offshore fishing has also been great with some school tuna being taken and many mako sharks all over. Joe Kalvi on the "Sea Wolf" has had at least two makos on each offshore trip he has made in 180' of water due south of the Pt. Dennis Gaviola has also been doing great with makos and on Fri. he lost a swordfish that jumped and landed on the line.

Shown here are some nice doormat fluke taken aboard the "Marlin IV" out of Montauk.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** was walking around the dock on Sunday afternoon with a big smile on his face after having found a school of school tuna southeast of Block Island for his charter. No big fluke have been reported taken on the southside as of yet.

Lake Montauk Marina reported that a giant bluefin tuna of 535 pounds was taken on Sunday by Carl Newmeyer. Capt. John Keller on the charterboat **Bronco II** got a tiger shark of 303 pounds in addition to several blue sharks on a trip during the week. The marina's rental customers have been taking all the bluefish and weaks they want around Midway. A few bass are being taken on diamond jigs on the Elbow and Great Eastern.

The **West Lake Fishing Fleet** has been loading up with bluefish and weakfish inshore and sharks offshore. Capt. Whitey Bateman on the charterboat **Four Queens** took 90 weaks and blues on Saturday and on a half day trip on Sunday had 30. Capt. Gary Kieffer of the charterboat **Barracuda** has also been loading up on the blues and weaks at the Triangle using diamond jigs and wire line. Now is the time to book for bluefish and weaks. The offshore fishing is still a little slow, but the fish are all quality. Yellowfin tuna, swordfish, big albacore, bonito, white and blue marlin have all been taken in the last week in addition to many mako sharks. The **Darius II** is still doing a good job offshore and on the weekend Capt. Art Munday reported seeing a blue marlin jumping offshore. The **Darius II** still has a few open dates in September.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported the offshore fishing as excellent. During the week 14 makos and a rod and reel swordfish were brought into the marina. Ronnie Morone and Artie Jost took a swordfish of 399 pounds on rod and reel Saturday fishing aboard Ronnie's boat "Ronnie Too". The fish was taken south of Block Island trolling a rigged bait. The boat "Bit of Heaven" had two swordfish on on Saturday that took rigged eels, but both were lost. The boat reported spotting more than a dozen swordfish. The "Modar II" had at least one mako shark on each trip and took a 60 lb. marlin during the week. A few reels were stripped by giant tuna on Saturday. The "Bumble Bee" had one mako shark and three dolphin, and the "Kismet" took one dolphin.

Al, Harry, Candy, Rich, Dave and Bill Schaeffer from Cripple Creek, Colorado with weaks, blues and stripers totaling 65 fish taken aboard Capt. Frank Braddock's charterboat "Hurry Up."

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The "Miss Clemintine" fished the butterfish hole and took two mako sharks on Friday and one on Saturday. Carl Newmeyer and John Hopkins on the "Brute" bought a flat of herring at the Yacht Club for some shark fishing. After catching several blue sharks, a bait had a pick-up but the anglers argued about who was going to pull in the fish—nobody wanted to, thinking it to be another blue shark. When it was finally realized that they were dealing with a giant bluefin tuna, the argument swung 360 degrees and everybody wanted to bring it in. It was eventually weighed in at 596 pounds, according to John Hopkins.

Capt. Pete Van Alst of the charterboat **Modar II** reported that Saturday's charter took an 86 inch long white marlin. In the last several weeks almost all the sharks taken offshore have been makos.

Capt. John Sweetman on the charterboat **Ebb Tide** has been loading up on the weakfish and bluefish in the area known as the Triangle, which is formed by the Midway, Submarine and MP buoys. The fish are being taken both on wire line and using diamond jigs, and half day catches range between 40 fish and upwards.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** and a party of six led by Frank Riggiero on Saturday caught 155 bluefish and weakfish on diamond jigs and a nice mess of sea bass in the Midway area.

Capt. Howie Carrol of the **Jigger III** reported Saturday's fluking very good with 12 fish going over 8 pounds and 10 to 12 fluke per man fishing from the North Rips to Midway with squid and spearing, sand eels, and also with strip baits.

The charterboat **Free Spirit** called to report that last Monday he hit into 47 mixed blues and bass for a 4 man half day trip trolling umbrellas. On Tuesday, it was off to Forty Fathoms for 2 makos in the 130 lb. class. Wednesday it was one mako and two blue sharks. Sat. it was just blue sharks, all released. Sunday saw bad weather but the party was able to get two blue sharks in 140 feet, tagging one and releasing. Frank still has a few open Sept. dates.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** called to say that he has just returned with his brand new boat, **Viking Starship** to the builders yard in Rhode Island after completing speed trials. Paul enthusiastically reported that the **Viking Starship** broke all speed records and is definitely the fastest super cruiser not only on the east coast, but in the universe. Paul said to let you all know that if at all possible, the boat will be at the Viking dock, Montauk by the weekend. This however, is not completely within his control as a brand new boat has to pass through hundreds of coast guard inspections and procedures. However, the boat will certainly be into Montauk any day now and she should really be something to see.

Larry Baltzer of Babylon with a 262 lb. mako he caught aboard the "Adios" out of Montauk. The fish took an hour of Larry's time before giving up the battle.

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EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox at the **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reported that there are plenty of porgies at buoy 4 off Cedar Pt. The fish are mixed sizes and range up to 3 pounds. Bluefish are being taken on wire line and plugging around buoy 14 and Crowl Shoals. Weakfish, bass and bonito are mixed in with the blues. Bill said that the fluke fishing hasn't been too good this year.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Jr. of the **Capt. Clark Fleet** reported that the porgy fishing has been consistent and good on the local wrecks in Peconic Bay. Doris Boldin of Jamaica had 63 porgies and 4 weakfish on Saturday. About 30 weakfish were taken on Saturday. The weakfishing has been best east of Nassau Point using whole bloodworms for bait.

Capt. Jimenez of the charterboat **Outer Limits** called to report that on Friday, Saturday and Sunday his charters had at least 1 mako shark plus blue sharks and browns. On Sunday, Fred Kaye and Angelo Bio and his son Jr., took a 9½ foot long blue shark that weighed in at 223 pounds. This big blue was fought by the trio for 2½ hours while it was raining heavily with lightning. The shark will be mounted by True Life Taxidermy and was taken in 160 to 180 feet of water, 170 degrees from Shinnecock Inlet.

HAMPTON BAYS

Bradley's Fishing Station reports that the fluke fishing has only been fair with average catches of 4 to 10 keepers per boat. Best action has been in East Channel on incoming tide using sand eels and squid for bait. Snappers are all over the bay eating the fluke bait. Porgy fishing is still good in the Peconics but the weakfish have been very spotty.

Tony's Fishing Station reported good fluke fishing during the week drifting around buoy 18, 20, and the mouth of the inlet. Best action has been on any moving tide with killies and squid for bait. Fishing was down considerably on the weekend due to the rotten weather. Some big flounder are being taken on red dyed clams right in front of the station at buoy 21. Not many, but all big.

Snapper fishing is great in this area as evidenced by a catch of 15 for Monica and Cheryl Barbieri of Florida fishing with Aunt, Uncle and Grandpa. They had to leave early though because of the rain.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reports excellent fluking during last Monday through Friday with sand eels and squid off the Coast Guard Station, buoy 39 and the sand bars. Also the area in between the jetties on the left side was producing. Blues are hot and cold offshore but the potential for

Bill Thomas caught his first bass of 17 lbs. while fishing in Moriches Inlet out of Cerullo Brothers Fishing Station.

a try at them is there with umbrellas in 90 feet of water. They are running 8 to 10 pounds when found. Snappers are in abundance and are ten to twelve inches in size. A few 50 to 60 lb. makos have been taken offshore.

Romona at the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** said that the fishing improved towards the

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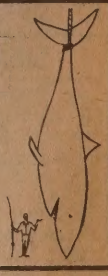

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end of the week when the snappers thinned out and weren't such a nuisance eating the baits meant for fluke. Best action was between buoy 36 and the Elbow using sand eels for bait. On Sunday, Yasukacu Koinuma and Koichiro Harada from Larchmont, N.Y. brought in twelve nice keeper fluke they took in that area.

Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing has been good off the CG Station and the old cut on incoming water. The flats behind buoy 29 have also been producing some nice catches of fluke. Killie and squid combo has been producing best. The weekend fishing was slow due to the weather, and snappers have been a problem because they have been stealing the fluke bait.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **STIRITZ'S FISHING STATION** reports large size crabs at buoys 15 and 17 in

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8-year-old Tommy Wiedermeyer of Centereach with a 4-1/2 fluke he caught while fishing with his grandfather at the Elbow on sand eel bait. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

traps, though quantities are small. Six - 8 inch snappers are being caught all over the place on shiners and small tins. Wed. and Thurs. saw fair fluking at buoy 27 with a 6 lb 9 oz fluke taken by John Gibson. The fluking has been light this past week. A few weaks have been taken this week on Salty Dogs tipped with squid at buoy 19.

WEST SAYVILLE

Marty at **SOUTH BAY FISHING STATION** reports lots of weakfish have been caught this past week east of buoy 30 on squid strips with the ebb best. These fish are 3 and 4 pounders. Blowfish at buoy 30 also on squid strips and skimmer clam. Lots of these fish around and of good size. Snappers are all over the place hitting sand eels and frozen killies. Fluke slowed down this week with the best being at buoy 28 on sand eels and squid.

SAYVILLE

YOUNG'S FISHING STATION reports Al Morgan, Doc Pine and Mr. Smith (again) on Saturday had over 90 weakfish taken off Green's Pt, West Sayville on squid strips. Lots of weaks taken all week long. Jim Walsh Sr. and Jr. had over 60 weaks in the rain plus fluke on Saturday, same area on squid strips. Almost every boat that they rented came back with weakfish. A few blowfish, kings, and seabass have also been taken this week. The fluke slowed down, but those taken in this same area and in the Flats are big, on sand eels and squid.

OAKDALE

Capt. Irv of **Big Red** called to say he has been finding the bluefish spotty but fluking very good and wanting sand eels and squid. Best results are with a 36 to 48 inch leader. He is working the east bank of F.I. Inlet in the deeper pockets. Some large weaks at buoys 29 and 30 southeast of Timber Pt. and in quantity fishing squid on the bottom. Irv says he is now booking fall flounder, blacks and cod.

OAK BEACH

THE STORE informs us that Friday and Saturday saw lots of weakfish and fluke taken. The weaks were from Democratic Pt. and the Sore Thumb fished in early morning hours with one half or three quarter ounce Tri-Fin Whip tails. The fluke were taken in front of the store and also throughout the inlet on sand eels and spearing. Blues taken in the same area in the early morning on umbrellas.

BAY SHORE

Smokies bait and tackle reports fluking very good at the top of the flood in F.I. Inlet. William Konedik on Wed. had 12 keeers on squid and spearing near the Mosses Bridge. Fifty six keepers were taken on Fri. morning on the flood west of the bridge to the inlet by another customer on sand eels and squid. A few big blows have been taken on fluke rigs. Weaks on live snappers running 2-6 lbs at the Coast Guard Station and at the inlet in early morning and late afternoon hours. Crabs are few, but big. A few big blackfish have been taken on the inside reef on clam and fiddlers. Bob Anthony had 15 weaks on Wed. drifting sand worms in front of the lighthouse. Outside, blues are south of the inlet and you will have to chase the birds and jig, fish are running 8-15 lbs. Night blues east of the inlet off Cherry Grove on bait and chum.

CAPTREE

CAPT NEIL of the **LADY ANN** reports blues and fluke excellent this past week with the rundown as follows: Friday night's charter - 171 blues, Sat. night's charter - 195 blues, all jumbos up to 15 lbs on bait. Sunday afternoon's blues were slow due to the weather, though some were bananaed at dusk. Neil saw a lot of blues on top and he says the fish are definitely there, although the week's heat lightening put a lot of them down. Fluking has been excellent from the inlet to West Channel. Friday's catch was 321 keeper fluke, Saturday's score was 242 and Sunday in the rain and wind the score was 132 fluke, all on killies and squid. All tides are good now, but the best is the last of the flood.

11-year-old Larry O'Brien with an 8 lb. 6 oz. fluke taken aboard the "Capt. Ben Litwin" out of Captree.

Capt. Ben Litwin called to say that a 10 lb. 1 oz. fluke was taken by John Caspers of Greenlawn last Friday while Pat Litwin on Monday had an 8 lb. 9 oz. fluke. The fluking has been good all week with a good number of big fish mixed in.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported that the night bluefishing was good most of the week with Friday and Saturday being the best. The fish are all big choppers with anglers averaging 8 to 15 fish per man. Best action has been close by right off the lighthouse in 90 feet of water. George said that the bluefishing has been so good that he will now be sailing two trips daily for them, at 7 A.M. and 7 P.M.

Capt. Bob Patafio of the charterboat **Yankee** reported that the night bluefishing has been very good although Saturday's action was off due to the rain and wind. Best area has been south/southeast, 3 or 4 miles from the Fire Island artificial reef. Banana lures have been producing best in the daytime, but the night action has been better all around with chum. Saturday's pool was taken by Mike Kowalewski of the Square Deal Fishing Club with a 12¾ lb. bluefish. Don Patrone of the same club had a fish of 10½ pounds. Fluke fishing has been excellent, even on the weekend with all its rotten weather.

BABYLON

CHARLIE'S FISHING STATION reports all of their skiffs had good fluking this past week, except for Sunday with its bad weather. John and Jan Zucklia had a good catch fishing State Channel near Frank and Dicks on squid and sand eels. Bill Pantoliano and friend John fished the lighthouse with squid and sand eels and also filled up a bucket. Blue claw crabs have started up in the flats in nets.

BABYLON FISHING STATION reports good fluking Mon. thru Fri. with what appears to be a new run of fluke from Pt. Democrat to the Sore Thumb with big catches on killies and squid or sand eels and squid. One sharpie had 37 keepers up to 2½ lbs drifting from the lighthouse west. Ralph and Jack fishing the Lighthouse area had 18 keepers in 2 hours on squid strips and 1-2 lb weakfish at the bridge, also on squid strips on the bottom. Clam digger Bigfoot had 10 weakfish fishing the long, low span of the mosses bridge with squid strips also.

LINDENHURST

CHARLIE'S BAIT AND TACKLE reports weakfish being caught at the Hole off the lighthouse, fish 6-10 lbs on live snapper, live bunker or live eel. The last of the incoming and the first of the outgoing are best. Blues at the Sore Thumb and at the Old Inlet on the inside up to 10 lbs on white Umbrellas, Ava jigs and also on live bunker. This is in the morning before boat traffic. Loads of fluke from the lighthouse to the inlet, incoming best on killie, squid and sand eels. Tuna in 105' of water south of the inlet during the week on trolled red and white feathers and cedar jigs, fish to 14 lbs. Loads of snappers all over. John's pet racoon suggests that you catch and use these snappers for fluke bait as they don't have to be live for fluking.

DUKE'S BAIT AND TACKLE reports snappers are plentiful in all the canals and off the piers, but that crabs are hard to find. Best fluking this past week has been at the mouth of the inlet up to the lighthouse on the flood with sand eels. Large weaks off the Coast Guard Station on drifted live snapper mostly in the evening on the ebb, fish up to 12 lbs. Lots of small blues from 2-4 lbs trolled in the inlet and the mouth thereof on tubes and umbrellas. From 75' on out, blues abundant up to 14 lbs trolling and jigging during the day and chum and butterfish at night on private and party boats. Some tuna in 90' of water south of F.I. inlet. Two footballs were taken on feathers and cedar jigs. Lots of bonito and Albies s/se of the inlet in 100' of water on out on feathers and cedar jigs. Mucho white marlin and makos sighted off Shinnecock in 115-125' of water. Jet lures are apparently effective this year.

Peppi Sioffi of the Surfside 3 Tuna Club called to say that they held their annual bluefish tournament on Aug. 14th. First prize went to Bill Eppis with an 11 lb. 8 oz. blue. 2nd to Fred Formato with an 11 lb. 4 oz. blue. 3rd place to Joe Gaiti with a 10 lb. 13 oz. blue. These fish were all caught in 80 feet of water out of F.I.

COPIAGUE

JONAS BAIT AND TACKLE reports fluking very good at the State Channel, Squaw Island and at the Inlet on sand eels and spearing and killies. Snappers in abundance taken on spearing at East Fox Creek, the Amityville Cut and off the local docks. Small tins are working also, with better catches being made from boats. Blowfish and sand porgies off the. Copiague and Amityville Beaches. Some crabs in traps at the docks. Some weaks up to 10 lbs 2 ozs on live snapper fishing Ocean Beach and West Island. Jonas heard of a 57 lb 2 oz striper and a 41 pounder caught at Democratic Pt. from the surf on sand worms from a reliable source. The reliable source had several schoolies which were taken on sand worms also.

AMITYVILLE

GEORGE COMBS BAIT AND TACKLE reports good fluking at the inlet as evidenced by Barbarb and Richie Lapersonair with 36 keeper fluke up to 5 lbs taken on Sunday in the crummy weather. Good snappers on small spearing being taken off the docks.

Capt. Harry Nelson of the charterboat **FISHED ON** called to say that while sharking on Sat., he ran into a huge school of Tuna. Eighteen tuna were on and eleven were boated, all in the 20-lb class. This was southeast of Jones in 140' of water on black feathers and cedar plugs.

Freeport lady angler Edith Drinkwater with 7 lb. 8 oz. weak and five other weaks taken by her and hubby early Wed AM on sandworms, drifted three feet off the bottom at the Meadowbrook Bridge Edith won a "Skillful Angling Award." Photo courtesy of Hook, Line & Sinker Bait and Tackle, Freeport.

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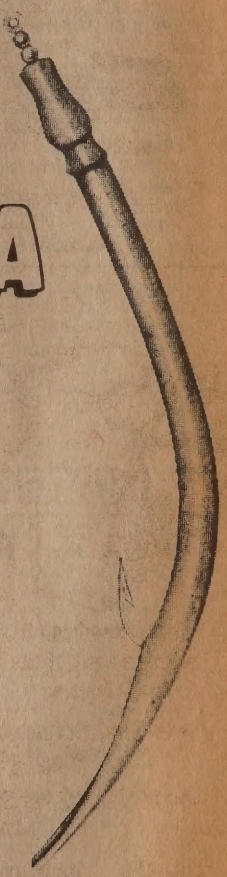

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SEAFORD

CAPT EDDIE'S FISHING STATION reported that during this past week, weakfish were hitting sandworms or live snappers at the bridge, outgoing tide the best. Fluking has been good with outgoing working best on killies and sand eels west of the draw bridge, at Four Corners and off Florence Beach. Porgies of the half pound category at Massapequa Cove on clam. Lots of snappers in the creeks and bridges on spearing. Crabbing is poor, but those caught are large.

BELLMORE

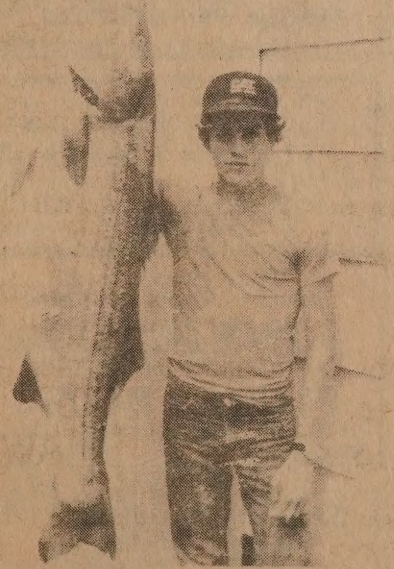
MERRICK MARINE SUPPLIES tells of lots of fluke caught this week and weekend also despite the poor weather on sand eels and squid at the Jones Inlet bars and at Swift Creed , all tides.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports weaks at the Meadowbrook Bridge in quantity on live snappers fished about 3 feet off the bottom on a three to four foot leader. Fish anytime except slack water. Last of the incoming appears to be working best. fluking was good this past week by skiffs working Merrick Pt. and Broad Creek. Bigger fluke were taken on sand eels along where the barges were at Short Beach. George passes on the rumor that Scottie of **Scotty's Fishing Station** in Pt. Lookout got 31 bass up to 30 pounds trolling umbrellas under a big school of bunker off the beach.

BALDWIN

Arthur St. Fishing Station tells of a 9 lb. 2 oz. fluke taken on light spinning tackle by Kathy Maresco in Reynolds Channel on killies and squid on Aug. 8th. Some weaks have been taken at Fundy Bay on sand worms and live snapper. The fluking is fair in Middle Bay and in Jones Inlet on sand eels and squid. Mathew Reverri had a 4 lb. fluke and a 9 lb. weak fishing Wednesday eve in Sloop Channel, all on sandworms.



Jon Semlear caught this 52-1/2 lb. striped bass while trolling an amber tube in Plum Gut on July 29th.

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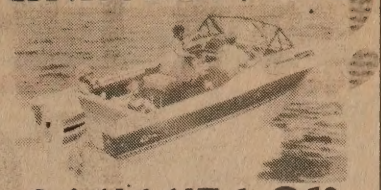
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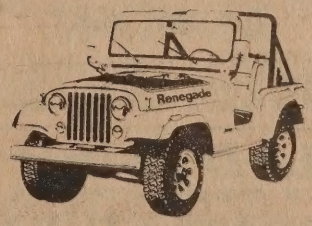

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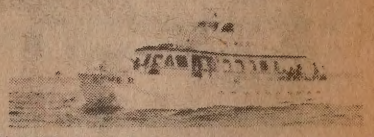

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Starstream II reports good bottom fishing all week on sea bass and ling with occasional cod and pollack mixed in. Even Sunday saw good bottom fishing during the day despite the bad weather and those that stayed at the rail filled a five gallon bucket with ease. The night time bluefish trips have been hot and cold. Sat. night saw 150 blues taken while Thurs. and Fri. nights were poor. Your reporter was on board on Tuesday night and can say that the fishing was very good, all fish that night being from 7 to 10 pounds on bait and chum. Once the weather straightens out and we are rid of these thunder and lightening storms, the bluefishing should be even more consistent. All in all, there are good catches being made on day and night trips.

The **Capt. Al** reports very good bluefishing at Cholera and south of Cholera with high hook during the week being 44 blues for 1 regular. Sundays high hook was 20 choppers in the rain. Sat. night was very good on bait, says Al. Some trips are good, some fair. A few bonito are mixed in. Most of the fishing is being done about 11 miles from the inlet. Another regular had 82 fish on four trips taken during the week. The half day fluke trips on the **Capt. II** have been pretty good, with fish of mixed sizes being taken. Several four and five pounders are taken each trip. From now through the end of September should see the best fishing action. The fluke will be in the inlet on the move and they will be bigger. Al says there is 300 to 400 blues per day trip all on jigs and bananas while at night its bait and chum.

The **Capt. Lou II** reports good fluking all week mainly at the inlet on spearing. During the week, sand eels, squid and killies were working also. An 11 lb. 6 oz. fluke was taken by one female passenger during the week. The fluke want spearing now, says Lou, and there are a good number of 5 and 6 lb. fish being taken.

Capt. John on the **Aloma** reports the bottom fishing has been a bit slow locally this

Ms. Ivy Panzicia, Ms. Linda Crawford of Manhasset Hills with 200 lbs. of weaks, bass and bluefish caught on "Kim" using Lupo umbrella rigs at Sandy Hook.

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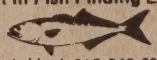

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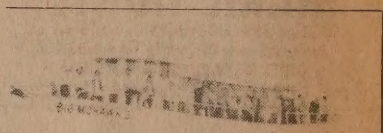

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past week so he is taking his fares to jig blues in the morning hours and then he fills in the day with sea bass and ling in the afternoon. Some are getting ¾ of a 5 gallon can filled. Fair catches, says John. Paul on the **Aloma II** has been fluking in the inlet with good catches at the top of the flood on sand eels.

The **Capt. Hall** reports very good fluking all week but she slowed on Sunday due to the sloppy weather. Nice fluke are at the inlet on the top of the tide on squid and killies. Some sea bass are taken each day along with two pound snappers.

The charterboat **Lucky Strike III** called to say that Sat. fluke charter had over 30 keepers fishing the east side of Jones Inlet with squid and sand eels and also with killies and the catch was made on the 3 hours around the top of the tide.

Charterboat **Blue Fin II** called to say that they have been working out on bluefish south of the Angler Banks for catches of blues 2 to 4 pounds with occasional bonito to 6 pounds. Average high hook of the day is 15 fish per trip, both days and nights. Its jigs and bananas daytime, bait at night. Over 100 blues were taken on Wednesday around the Three Sisters area by a charter of the Power X-Ray Company of Glen Cove on jigs and bananas.

Capt. Joe Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** called to tell us that on Thurs. Jeff Wolfe and pals of E. Norwich trolled up 27 small blues in the 2½ lb. range. On Sat. he had a charter of the Hudson Anglers wives, fishing in the Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament. Maria arranged the charter and Marion McDoud took 9th place. The group took 24 shark up to 80 pounds. Maureen, Lynn and Vy also performed admirally. In Sundays rough weather, Joe took Dave Robinson and party south of the HA totalling 7 duskies and a 110 lb. tiger.

Pete at **MAKO MARINA** has given us the

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NO GROUP TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL
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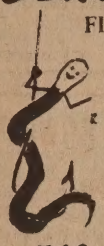

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results of the Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament. The first four prizes split $3,186. in prize money. First place went to a 175 lb tiger caught by Frank Romano on the Phalarope. Second place went to a 130 lb duskie caught by Henry Urban on the Sundown. Third place went to a 128½ lb dusky caught by Howie Snider on the boat Sabra. Fourth place, which won a 16/0 Penn and 130 lb rod donated by Mako Marina went to a 128 lb sand bar shark caught by Richie Neckles on the boat Eddie. Fourth thru tenth took tackle prizes. A late entry was a 299 lb tiger caught by Joe Frye on his boat Fish Frye -the delay being due to Joe towing a disabled vessle earlier in the day.

HOOK LINE AND SINKER BAIT AND TACKLE reports that Mr. and Mrs. Drinkwater of Freeport had 5 good sized weakfish, 1 topping 7 lbs fishing a very early morning tide at the Meadowbrook bridge with sand worms on a long leader 3 ft off the bottom. Snappers all over the place and nice size on small spearing on a float, Johnson sprites and Kastmasters. Kids fishing the Freeport docks are doing a job. Sand porgies, Lafayettes and pilot fish are being taken in all the canals and in the bay. Fluking has been good at the Coast Guard Station and fishing at the inlet on sand eels and squid. Good bluefishing off shore, along with lots of shark. A few bass on eels at Short Beach on day and night tides.

HUDSON PT FISHING STATION tells of a 134 lb dusky shark taken on Sat. by Craig Schmidt of Valley Stream on the Hunter. Bill Purman and Gary Corwin of Baldwin fished Jones Inlet on the weekend nabbing 6 stripers on eels and 6 fluke up to 8 lbs on live snapper.

FRANK'S MARINA reports good fluke catches this past week as evidenced by John Lampa fishing Jones inlet with killies during the week. Other of Frank's skiffs brought back fluke from the same area. Frank's shark tournament will be held this Sunday, all welcome.

POINT LOOKOUT

THE MARIE III reports beautiful fluking over the weekend in the rain at Jones Inlet. On both days the pool went over 4 lbs. Very few throwbacks were caught and squid and sand eels did the trick. On Saturday, Andy also hit the wrecks, catching a load of porgies up to 1½ lbs on clam. These were local inshore wrecks which are apparently holding a load of porgies.

Frank at **Doxsee Sea Clam** says that while he does not have specifics, he does know that he is selling quite a bit of clam bellies to experienced clam chummers from the area and that they keep coming back regularly. He says that this indicates to him that they are working the bridges with some degree of success in the night hours.

Ed's Fishing Station reports that because of the weather the customers were slow coming in to fish but even though the fishing was still to be had. Fluke were had at Jones Inlet, Short Beach near the Coast Guard Sta., Reynolds Channel and Middle Bay. The sharpies took from 30 to 40 keeper fluke trolling near Middle Bay. An average of 10 tro to 20 fluke per boat were had in the other areas. Snappers of nice size can be had in the bay along with lafayettes and sand porgies which are in large concentrations by the golf course. Flounder to two pounds are still hitting worms in Swift Creek and at buoy 15 in the inlet. Blacks are being taken at the jetty in Jones Inlet and at the Meadowbrook Bridge. One guy fishing the jetty took a 13½ lb. black on fiddler bait. Bass were picked up by the sharpies at the south end of the jetty, the Point Lookout side of the jetty and at the Meadowbrook Bridge on clams. These fish run up to 24 pounds and are hitting snapper bait and clams with the outgoing tide being best.

Scotty's Marina reported fluking to be good this past week in the inlet with fish hitting snappers, killies and sand eels. Jack Creeger from Lynbrook fished the inlet with a snapper and took a 12 lb. fluke. Snappers are all over the area. Bass and weaks are being picked up at the Loop Bridge on clam chum.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reported good fluking in Jones Inlet using snappers, squid and sand eels for bait. Blues are being wire lined at East Rockaway and Jones Inlet in 30 to 80 feet of water with the best rig being the Bingle Gorilla.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Hennings Fishing Station reports great fluking in the inlet between buoys 5 and 6 and east of the bridge to the Long Beach High School on the north side of the Channel. Killies, squid, sand eels, spearing and live snappers all produce. Loads of snappers and baby herring taking small shiners and tiny tins. Leon hears of a few night bass being chummed at the bridge. Try Silver Pt. Jetty and the 28th St. wreck for porgies and sea bass.

JAMAICA BAY

Crossbay Bait and Tackle reports that snappers are in the bay of various sizes and are hitting spearing. Porgies and lafayettes of nice size are being taken around the North and South Channel Bridges. Weaks to 7 pounds are hitting worms and bunker chunks at night at the North Channel Bridge.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Zephyr reports very good porgy action fishing at Seabright as long as the weather is not ugly. Poor weather over the weekend put a dent in the catch. The sea bass action is good also, with the catch being split 50-50 between sea bass and the porgies. Both are running in the one pound range on clam.

Capt. Fred of the **Enterprise** reports 40 blues on Friday night with Sat. night being very good, approximately 300 blues coming over the rail. On Sunday the blues took hold in the last 1½ hours of the day and most people had a few fish. The bluefishing continues hot and cold. Fred ran into a load of 6-7 ounce snappers also on Sat. night. It's jigs during the day and chum at night.

Capt. Joe Miller of the **Atomic II** reports the fluking this past week ran hot and cold on the black side of Ambrose, Sandy Hook and Chapel Hill Channel on sand eels and spearing. Highlight of the week was 16 fluke as high hook. 50 men on that trip all had between 5 and 7 keepers each. The night blues are good on bait fishing the Mud Hole. Joe says the fishing is more consistent now and the fish are mixed sizes.

Capt. Stan of the charterboat **Babe** called to tell us that on Sat. Phil Rosen, Dan, Victor, and Harry Baierlein had 41 keeper fluke fishing the red side of Ambrose with squid and spearing. Harry was high hook and also caught a 7 pounder. Sunday's charter of Allan Goldberg and Co. took a mess of snappers along with 15 keeper fluke, fishing the same area.

Walter on the **Flamingo III** reports pretty good fishing for the best part of the week. He says the fishing is fair to good each day with all hands getting mixed catches of blues and weaks. The better fishermen are getting up to a dozen fish. It's jigging and bananas for mixed blues and weaks during the day, mainly off Asbury Park. The fish are moving but not difficult to find. Some very good days during the week and good consistency. A few bonito mixed in which is a good sign. Indications of 30 to 40 lb. tuna from 50 to 60 miles offshore and they could move in with the right conditions. Good Sept. prospects of

bonito, albies and tuna.

Ray of the **Helen II** reports a fair pick on blues both day and night fishing the Klondike area. Again its jigs and bananas under the sun and bait and chum in the moonlight. Fish are mixed from 2 to 12 pounds with weakfish scattered amongst them. A 12 lb. white shark was also caught one night during the week.

Big Mohawk II reports his charters have been jigging blues during the days in the Klondike area 7 miles off the beach and its been bait and chum at night. Nights are a lot better. Tony asked us to say he still has some weekday nights still open.

Salvo's Bait and Tackle reports fluke picking up at the Tin Can. Joe himself got 14 keepers with five in the 3 to 4 lb. category on sand eels and squid this past week. Stripers want worms fished on the bottom under the bridge and at buoy 21 with weakfish mixed in. Fish are up to 11 pounds. Blues are sporadic and of mixed sizes between the bridge and the Tin Can. Diamond jigs are your best bet in the daytime. Plenty of porgies at any sea wall and off the Coney Island Pier. Blackfish also. Snappers all over the place. Blues, bass and weaks are being taken at night on worms fished on the bottom.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that South Beach and the Berger Avenue storm sewers are producing blues the last two hours of the outgoing, slack, and the first hour of incoming. Cut bait such as bunker and butterfish are producing these choppers from 8 to 14 pounds. There is a slow pick of stripers at Penny Beach and Cliff St. with these fish coming anywhere from shorts to 4 pounds on worms. Snappers, porgies and lafayettes are plentiful and can be taken along the Staten Island shoreline. S. Beach is producing blues by either trolling umbrella rigs or using Montauk bunker spoons. Bass and weaks are mixed in. Two to three lb. blues can be had in Princess Bay on pet spoons, gorilla rigs and tubes.

Subscriber Dick Lewis of the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club took these three weakfish to 8 pounds casting from Ocean Beach at midnight. All fish were taken on small Lupo blue and white Danny plugs.

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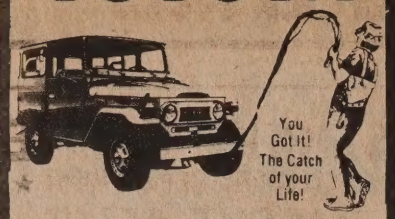

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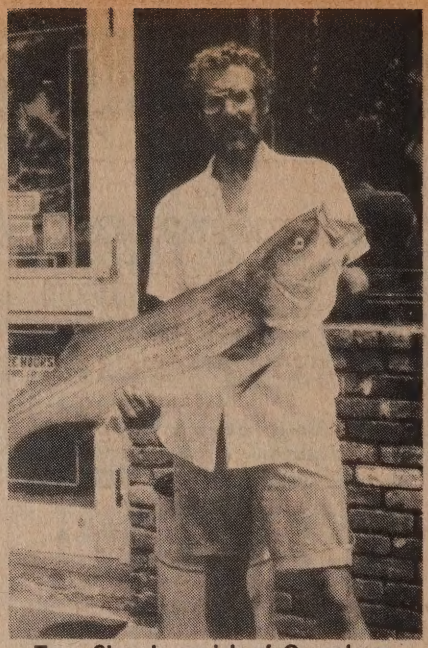

Tony Shershenovich of Greenlawn with a 33 lb. bass which was one of seven bass he took while casting white bucktails at Eaton's Neck. Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait & Tackle.

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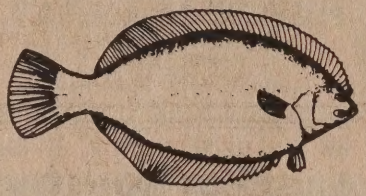

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(Continued from page 15.)

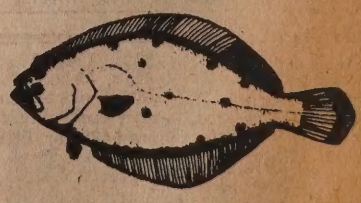
chum pot going. I've seen this happen many times at Montauk: a boat would anchor on the porgy grounds and begin to catch a few fish right away. After several minutes, the fishing would fall off to virtually nothing, and the boat would be forced to make a move. The process would be repeated several times, with a few fish at every drop. By day's end, only a fair catch would be had for all that work.

The way to avoid this is by using the chum pot, which increases your action tenfold. Porgies travel up and down the mussel beds, which may stretch several hundred yards, searching for food carried by the current. If a boat anchors randomly, he will catch whatever fish are in the immediate area. Since there are no great quantities of food forthcoming, the boat eventually loses the fish. However, the boat that uses the chum pot doesn't lose the fish because there is plenty of food in the area to hold the fish near the boat. Take a look at the commercial rod and reel fishermen, and you'll see what I mean about the chum pot.

Because of the pretty stiff currents under which most of the fishing is done, the chum pot used must be fairly heavy or it will start wandering with the current. Those big chum pots they sell in tackle shops are fine in most cases, except that you'll have to pour about ten pounds of additional lead into them so that they will sit on the bottom. Better yet, if you're handy, get the fine wire mesh and make up your own chum pot—it'll cost you a lot less in the long run.

The chum used just about exclusively is frozen clam bellies. If you have a freezer available, the best thing to do is buy a couple of five gallon tins of frozen clam bellies ahead of time and thaw it out. When the glop thaws out, put it into two pound coffee containers, or half gallon, wax milk containers and refreeze it. These containers are then used as needed, being kept frozen until put into the chum pot. As the warm water thaws the bellies out, little bits of the food and juices are carried off into the current. Any schools of porgies in the area will intercept the chum line, and follow it right to its source. In fact, if you're fishing from a boat with a wide stern, the anglers closest to the chum pot will have the most action.

Pan fried porgies, after a thorough cleaning, are very, very tasty. The bigger fish are best filleted—after all of their numerous bones have been removed. As far as fighting abilities are concerned, few bottom fish can compete with them.



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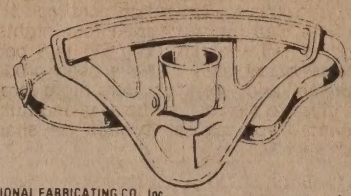

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★ Bonus Prize ★

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LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

There was once again no winner for our contest, so next week's winner shall receive $30 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

182-NDH

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet		
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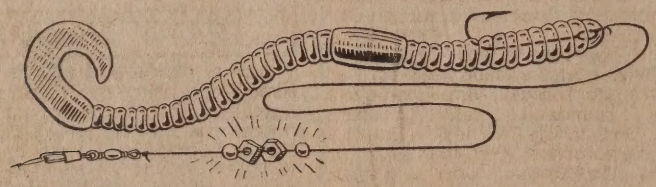

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** happily reports that he is loading up every trip with the largest porgies of the season at Constellation Rock and also on the Conn. side when the tide so dictates. This is all on clam. George says he will be starting bluefishing soon, as blues are starting to invade the porgy grounds. A 10 lb. blue took a porgy on the way up over the weekend and was boated. Lots of small blues now around the ruins and Plum Island. George says you'd better come on down NOW if you want porgies in the 1 to 3 lb. range.

The **Wilhelric** reports porgy action slowed during the week but got better on Sat. and Sun. Sundays fishing was excellent with high hook being approximately 55 porgies which are going up to 3 pounds. Almost all are large and jumbos and are hitting clam baits. The pool is usually a fluke or black in the 5 to 6 lb. range. Double and triple headers are not uncommon. They are fishing the Gardiners area.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports small blues are being taken in Orient Bay and over by the ruins. Rod and reel commercial fishermen are getting bass in Plum Gut and over by Old Silas. Evening and night time were best action. Fluke are being taken off Truman's Beach and east of the Ruins. For porgies try Gardiners Island.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reports good porgy fishing in the bay at buoys 17 and 18 with fish averaging 1 pound. South Ferry is producing a lot of sand porgies for boats who fish with clams and worms. Catches of up to a few bushels have been had for the boats. Fluke fishing has slacked off but fish can be had at Rocky Pt., Mulford Pt. and Pettys Bite. Blackfish are scarce but are being taken at Rocky Pt. Snappers are plentiful in the area.

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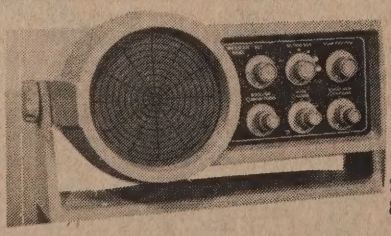

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Christine La Chere of Lynbrook with a 7 lb. 6 oz. fluke taken at Buoys 9 and 10 in the Inlet aboard the "Capt. Lou II'.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that there is still good weakfishing in Roses Grove as shown by Bill Bryant and his family who fished east of the tower with sand worms and totalled 42 weaks and 60 porgies for their days work. Porgies from ¾ to 1 pound are to be had in the South Race on worms and clams. Snappers are plentiful in this area.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reports that porgies are heavily concentrated in the bay and in the sound. Blues can be trolled with umbrella rigs at buoy 5 from 2 to 4 pounds. Bass are being taken off the beaches on sand worms and are mostly schoolies. Weaks in the 3 lb. range are hitting sand worms and squid in Roses Grove.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that schools of blues are in the sound from buoys 5 to 9 and are running up to 4 pounds and are hitting umbrellas best. Porgies are all over and will hit almost any bait. These fish are running to 2 pounds. Blackfishing and weakfishing has been slow in this area and the snappers are getting bigger and bigger.

ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop reports that the weekend rain slowed fishing a bit. Bluefish are being taken off the Strattford Light and from Rocky Pt. to Shoreham beaches. These fish can be taken 'till 10 A.M. and are running 4 to 6 pounds. Sekora tubes and umbrellas are getting the best action. Buoys 11 and 9 are also producing this same action. Fluke fishing has been steady with these fish hitting squid and sand eels at buoys 11 and 9. Porgies are wall to wall and are running from ¾ to 1¼ pounds. For the freshwater scene in the Rocky Pt. area Robert Celentano took a 16½ lb. golden carp in Little Peconic River on four pound test using corn bait.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dick's Sporting Goods reported good bluefishing inshore with fish from 5 to 6 pounds hitting surgical tubes. The buoy 9 area is producing bluefish and weakfish. The weaks are running from 7 to 8 pounds and are hitting Pulsating Pussycats and Panana lures. Snappers are plentiful in the harbor and are hitting on shiners.

SELDEN

Ken Freeman of **Anglers Den** reported small blues from 2 to 5 pounds being picked up between buoys 11 and 9 trolling umbrella rigs. Bass are being taken here and there at buoy 11 trolling umbrellas. Weakfish are hitting drifted sand worms at White Beach. These fish are running from 5½ to 7½ pounds. On Tuesday, Ken had 20 customers go out to this area and each boat took at least 20 fish. Ken himself fished four nights and totalled 115 weakfish from 5½ to 8 pounds. The shoals at buoy 11 have been producing bluefish and weakfish for night trollers. Porgies are plentiful in the area and fluke are around if you can get through the snappers with your bait.

PORT JEFFERSON

The Betty W reports porgy fishing remaining steady with mediums to jumbos being taken each trip. Average catches are 30 to 40 fish per man. Some blacks are starting in the deeper water. On Sunday the pool was won by Kerry Wilson of Stony Brook with a 4 lb. blue.

Caraftis Fishing Station reports lots of porgies off Oldfield Point. You should be able to catch as many as you want, ditto for snappers. Try scouting around for a deeper hole for some fluke fishing but bear in mind you have to get your bait past all the snappers. Blues and weaks are being trolled at the first light with wire and rigs between buoys 11 and 9. If you want bass you have to fish at night which people are not doing.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports a substantial increase in the number of fluke at local beaches. Porgies are running good and a few surprising catches of weakfish were brought in. Snappers are everywhere. Bluefish and stripers remain spotty. Joseph Tortorice of Kings Park was the weakfish king this week. On Tuesday morning between 1 and 2 A.M. he located a school of weaks off Pt. Jeff and when the action subsided he had 25 fish from 5 to 7 pounds 4 ounces. On Friday morning he returned for another catch of 22 fish. The biggest again running 7 pounds 4 ounces. All the action was on drifted sand worms. On Tuesday, Jim T. caught a bluefish of 11 pounds 10 ounces off Callahans on bunker. On Saturday Charlie Savvas took a bushel of big porgies off Macamah Beach on sandworms. On Sunday, Charlie Matson weighed in an 8 lb. 12 ounce fluke that grabbed an umbrella rig while he was trolling for blues at Callahans Beach.

NORTHPORT

Fred of the **Chain Locker** said that the biggest news is the invasion of huge bluefish into Northport and Huntington Harbors. These alligators are tearing through bunker schools at dawn and dusk and are taking whole live bunker as well as chunks. Fred said to please get up tide of the school and shut off your engine as the noise will spook the fish. Hot fishing for blues and weakfish off Diamond Pt. on wire line in 25 feet of water has been indicated by some fine catches. Bill Cunningham of Northport had 10 blues and 2 weakfish on Wednesday. Geoff Wendt aboard the "Piscator" had 18 bluefish on Tuesday, and Ernie Martini weighed in a 12 lb. weakfish. The fluking in the area has been quality rather than quantity, with Diamond Pt. and the area west of buoy 13 yielding many doormats up to 11 pounds. Sand eel and squid combos and live snappers have accounted for the majority of fluke. John Pappas came in with 8 fluke to 7 pounds. Snappers are right in the harbor and the kids are flocking to the town dock to fish in Chain Locker's snapper derby. Last week's winner was 11 year old Kevin Pejril of Northport. His 9½ inch snapper took the prize of a spinning rod and reel outfit. The local action has been rounded out by the porgies, which are everywhere you drop a worm.

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reports fishing has been good one day but was poor the next. One day the trollers would pick up 5 to 10 nice blues per boat but none the next day. Lots of bait is in the harbor but no fish. Try fluking around buoy 13 where fish have been taken to nine pounds. Only clam chummers putting in lots of time are getting bass off the Coast Guard Station. Best tide was two hours past high. Snappers are everywhere with most 5 to 10 inches in length.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that the weather knocked out a lot of the fishing over the weekend but even so weakfish were being taken each evening from 6 to dark at Lloyd Pt. trolling black umbrellas or casting a pink Mr. Twister. Small blues from 1½ to 4 pounds were mixed in with these weaks. Large blues were taken at Eatons Neck in the evenings drifting bunker and mackerel chunks. Gary Rich and Nick Bifulco of Huntington had blues to 15 pounds using this method. Fluke at Lloyds and Eatons Neck to 10 pounds were taken drifting sand eels, spearing, squid or snapper bait. Snappers are in the harbor and bays and are taking shiners and small lures.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Tackle** reports that very few people were out over the weekend because of the lousy weather, but during the week the fishing was pretty decent. Porgies were taken at Marshall Field on worms. Charles Kimson took a 7 lb. 14 oz. fluke off Lloyd Pt. on a sand eel. Fluke fishing has been good off buoy 13 with the best bait being a sand eel with a mackerel strip. This bait has out produced even snappers which most people switch to. Weaks and blues are at Lloyd Pt. and are hitting umbrellas with red, black or white tubes. Some big blues are working schools of bunker in Huntington Bay and Cold Spring Harbor.

CITY ISLAND

Jack at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** reported some blues being taken last week around Execution Light. One fellow out after porgies noticed the bunker getting nervous so he started casting a Kastmaster and picked up 8 fish to 15 pounds. Another fellow that same day got 2 to 3 pound blues until he let the lure go deeper, then he got bigger fish. Plenty of medium sized porgies are in the area. School bass are at Harts Island but still no big fish. Snappers are getting bigger and bigger.

NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI** reported he has been going down off N.J. for fair to good catches of blues. There are different sized fish on each trip. One day the fish are 10 to 16 pounds and the next they are only 5 to 8 pounds. There are also a few weakfish under the schools of blues. Some of the other head boats operating in this area reported a few bonito mixed in with the catches. Unfortunately, there are not enough fish in Western Long Island Sound to make trips worthwhile.

GROTON CONN.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Hel-Cat** reports fluke fishing as good and consistent. Every day the same set of rips at Montauk is producing fish at certain stages of the tide. If you know anything about fluke fishing you should be able to get yourself a decent mess of fish. Brad asked us to pass along the word that the boat is not of yet going after blues as the fish are not around in large enough quantities.

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